

4-35268

WINCHESTER REPEATING Fire Arms

January 29, 2009

James D. Julia Auctions
Route 201 Skowhegan Road
PO Box 830
Fairfield, ME 04937-0830

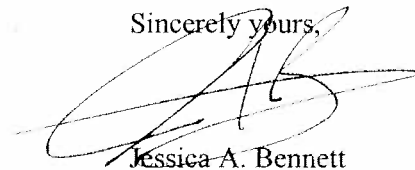
Dear Sir:

The manufacturer's data for Model 1876, serial number 3551, as extracted from the original Winchester records housed in the museum, are as follows:

Type: Rifle
Barrel Type: Octagon
Barrel Length: 30 inches
Trigger: Set
Pistol grip stock
Casehardened
1 of 1000
Received in warehouse on May 20, 1878
CH - June 14, 1878
Shipped from warehouse on June 19, 1878, Order number 11781

No other information is available for this serial number.

Sincerely yours,



Jessica A. Bennett
Records Specialist
Cody Firearms Museum

R.L. Wilson

Castle View
103-4 Ferry Road, Route 148
Hadlyme, Connecticut 06439
Tel: (860) 526-9297
Fax: (860) 526-9514
www.wilsonbooks.com
WilsonBook@aol.com

Historical Consultant
Colt's Manufacturing Co., Hartford
and to
'The Art of American Arms'
and
'Buffalo Bill's Wild West'
Museum Loan Exhibitions
'Son of a Gun' - BBC-TV
'Colt Firearms Legends' - SONY
'The Guns That Tamed the West' - A & E
'The Story of the Gun' - A & E
'Tales of the Gun' - The History Channel
'The Gun Industry in America' - BBC-TV/Open University
'Annie Oakley' - Riva Productions
Chairman, Antique Arms Committee
U.S. Society of Arms and Armour/America Remembers
Fine Colts The Dr. Joseph A. Murphy Collection

Samuel Colt Presents
The Arms Collection of Colonel Colt
L.D. Nimschke Firearms Engraver
The Evolution of the Colt
The Rampant Colt
Colt Commemorative Firearms
Theodore Roosevelt Outdoorsman
The Book of Colt Firearms
The Book of Winchester Engraving
Antique Arms Annual
Colt Pistols (with R.E. Hable)
Paterson Colt Pistol Variations (with P.R. Phillips)
The Colt Heritage
The "Russian" Colts
Colt Engraving
Rare and Historic Firearms (Christie's)
Winchester 1 of 1000
Colt's Dates of Manufacture
The Deringer in America, 2 Volumes
Colt An American Legend
Rare Firearms - A Benefit Auction (Christie's)
Winchester An American Legend
The Peacemakers
Steel Canvas
Ruger & His Guns
The Colt Engraving Book
The Official Price Guide to Gun Collecting
The World of Beretta (2000)
Buffalo Bill's Wild West

WINCHESTER 1 of 1000
Model 1876 Rifle, in .45-75 Caliber
with Factory Documentation
Serial Number 3551
Ulrich Style Scroll and Border Engraving
On the Barrel at Breech and Muzzle
Accompanied by Silver-Inlaid Bands
Engraved on the Barrel Breech:
One of One Thousand
Rare 30-Inch Octagonal Barrel
Set Trigger, Pistol Grip Stock

**Received in the Warehouse May 20th 1878
Shipped from the Warehouse June 19th 1878
Winchester Factory Work Order 11781
One of the 1 of 1000 Rifles Discovered in
The Universal Studios Search Coinciding with the
“Winchester ‘73” Film Release – 1950
Cleaned and Partially Refurbished by Winchester
In the mid-19th Century
On Those Occasions and for Many Years
In the Collection of Robert S. Withers
Liberty, Missouri
Revealed in Winchester’s Press Release As
A Gift to Withers from A Neighbor’s Bequest
The Neighbor Having Acquired the Rifle in
Tombstone, Arizona
To Be Featured in
WINCHESTER 1 OF 1000-II**

The author's **THE BOOK OF WINCHESTER ENGRAVING** and **WINCHESTER ENGRAVING** state the following regarding the significance of the 1 of 100 and 1 of 1000 Winchesters (pages 196 and 207 respectively):

No single Winchester variation has greater public appeal than the 1 of 100 and 1 of 1000 custom rifles.

These rare arms constitute the only specific variation of a Colt or a Winchester which has been the subject of a major firearms book - the author's own **WINCHESTER The Golden Age of American Gunmaking and the Winchester 1 of 1000**. To quote from the foreword to that volume, by Richard Rattenbury, formerly Curator

of the Winchester Museum, and later Curator of History at the Panhandle Plains Museum, and of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame:

With the passage of decades, an aura of fascination has grown around the various lever action Winchester rifles which played a role in American history during the nineteenth century. Few of these Winchester repeaters figured more prominently in that dynamic era than the famed Model 1873 and its large caliber offspring, the Model 1876. And, of these two models, an even more exclusive group has been set apart in recent times by virtue of its romance and rarity - that group comprised of rifles designated as either '1 of 1000' or '1 of 100.'

Rifles so marked by Winchester represented an unusual promotional idea, for they were singled out from regular production and appropriately embellished solely on the criterion of exceptional accuracy. Today, legitimate 1 of 1000 and 1 of 100 rifles are prized by the arms fraternity for their extreme rarity alone. They constitute less than three hundredths of one percent of the total production of the Winchester Models 1873 and 1876....

The total number of Model 1876 1 of 1000 rifles was only 51. The total production of Model 1876 Winchesters was 63,871.

LISTED IN WINCHESTER FACTORY LEDGERS

The Winchester factory ledgers list the following information for No. **3551**:

Rifle

30-inch, octagonal barrel

set trigger

pistol grip

case-hardened

1 of 1000

Received in the warehouse on May 20th 1878

Shipped from the warehouse on June 19th 1878

with 64 other Model 1876s and 81 Model 1873s, on order number 11781

CORRESPONDENCE FROM OWNER ROBERT S. WITHERS TO THE WINCHESTER FACTORY, May 23rd 1950

Accompanying the extraordinarily successful promotion of the James Stewart film, "Winchester '73", Universal Pictures was able to locate 23 1 of 1000 rifles from the Model 1873 series, and six 1 of 1000s in the Model 1876. The promotion had indicated that the reward to the first twenty persons reporting ownership was a new Model 94 rifle, compliments of Universal Pictures.

Responding to the publicity about the search, collector Robert Steel Withers wrote the following letter:

*Robert Steele Withers
Withers Farm
Liberty, Missouri*

May 23, 1950.

**Mr. Bill Depperman
Washington, D.C.**

Dear Sir:

I am glad to report that I am the owner of one of the "One of One Thousand" Winchester rifles. Mine is a perfect specimen; with the exception of a few scratches on the stock.

A neighbor of mine died and told his wife that he wanted me to have this gun. He was tubercular during the later years of his life and spent some years at Tombstone, Arizona. While there he traded a smaller gun for this gun.

When I acquired the gun I knew then that it was a rare specimen and wanting it as a collection item instead of a gun for service I sent it to the Winchester

Company with instructions to put it in perfect condition.

I do not think the gun had ever had a speck of rust on it either inside or outside. So far as I could see it was in perfect condition when I sent it.

I was delighted with the enthusiasm shown by the Winchester factory. They re-blued it, replaced the front sight and replaced a small screw at the base of the trigger and that was all.

They then wrote and asked permission to target the gun out saying that if they could find no ammunition for it they would make some. Of course I gladly gave them permission.

They reported that they had found some ammunition in a warehouse and had tried the gun out to their satisfaction and that it was as accurate as it could ever have been.

They also told me that their records showed that this gun had been sold in Tombstone, Arizona in 1876 and that it sold for \$125.00.

I think the gun has belonged to only three owners during its 74 or 75 years.

I am a farmer and have a small collection of guns and curios and relics of which I am very fond.

When you compile your list of the survivors of these old guns I would appreciate a copy if you have one to spare.

I have seen only one man who ever saw one of these rifles before. He sheared sheep for me once and he said his father owned one. His father was a big sheep owner in Durango, Colorado. I'm sorry I do not

remember the son's last name. His first name was Hugh and I'm sure the father would be dead by this time. They were Catholics.

I must admit this is a slim clue but you might have some connection in that city that could help you.

If I can be of further service let me know.

Very truly yours,

Robert S. Withers
Withers Farm, R.F.D. #2
Liberty, Missouri

Yet another document from Withers (a notarized statement dated June 10th 1950) further identified the neighbor as:

Claude Hardwick, now deceased, a resident of Liberty, Missouri, for many years, who was tubercular during the later years of his life and spent some years in Tombstone, Arizona. I am told that while there he traded a smaller gun for this gun. He had told his wife that he wanted me to have this gun and after his death she gave it to me. I had possession of the gun during his latter years of life and retained possession after her gift.

In the same document, Withers also noted:

3. Some years ago I sent the gun to the Winchester Company with instructions to put it in perfect condition, although it was in practically perfect condition at the time. They replaced the front sight, and inserted the small screw at the base of the trigger. It was then reblued and I understand that was all that they did to it. The Winchester people also told me that . . . their records showed that this gun had been sold in Tombstone, Arizona, in 1876 for \$125.00.

Withers was indeed shipped a Model 94 Winchester, as documented in a letter of June 22nd 1950, from W.H. Andre, Sales Office Manager, Winchester, New Haven. To quote from that letter:

With the confirmation by Mr. James C. Hartley, Director of Research, of your ownership of one of the rare "One of One Thousand" variety of the Winchester Model 1873, Universal Pictures Company, Inc., has given us an order to ship to you a new Model 1894 lever action rifle.

Your rifle is being shipped out today and we hope you have happy hunting with it. Our Model 94 is America's most famous modern rifle and, as you may know, is the lineal descendent of your own Model [76].

You will now own the finest lever action of earlier days as well as the finest of today.

As a result of the press release, articles appeared in various newspapers, celebrating Robert Withers's Winchester 1876 1 of 1000 Rifle, No. **3551**, and the presentation to him of a new Model 94 Winchester.

FURTHER DETAILS AND DESCRIPTION

Winchester 1 of 1000 Model 1876 Serial No. **3551** was unknown to the author when he researched and wrote the **WINCHESTER 1 of 1000** book. Having only been brought to the attention of collectors from its sale by the Withers family, in the mid-1990s, No. **3551** will be featured in the forthcoming revised and updated edition of the book, to be entitled **WINCHESTER 1 OF 1000-II**. The caption will read as follows:

Listed in the Winchester ledgers number 3551 appears as a rifle, 30" octagon barrel, case-hardened finish, pistol grip, set trigger, 1 of 1000, received in the warehouse May 20th and shipped June 19th 1878;

work order number 11781; accompanied by 64 other Model 1876s and 81 Model 1873s. History accompanying the rifle indicates the piece came to Liberty, Missouri arms collector Robert S. Withers by bequest from a neighbor, who had obtained the rifle while residing in Tombstone, Arizona. Rifle was one of the 1 of 1000s discovered in the movie search, conducted at the time "Winchester '73" was released to theaters.

The author was able to find and illustrate in the first edition of his book only eleven of the 1 of 1000 Model 1876 Winchesters. To add to these arms, No. **3551** is important and of particular distinction due to its long barrel and Tombstone, Arizona history, as well as its rare "Early Second Model" configuration, and the fact that the rifle is one of only a handful of four digit serial numbered 1 of 1000s in the Model 1876.

The barrel breech and muzzle are engraved in the classic Ulrich Winchester factory scroll and border style, with punched dot background. Silver bands are inlaid on the barrel, one at the breech, and one at the muzzle.

As a result of refurbishing by the Winchester factory in the period of the rifle's discovery in the Universal Pictures rifle search, coinciding with release of "Winchester '73", the rifle has a Winchester factory overall blue.

The stock is checkered, select walnut, finished in varnish, with an scalloped ebony inlay on the semi-pistol grip.

The front sight is of the Beach combination type, with traces of gold-plating remaining on the globe and blade portion. The rear sight is of the sporting rifle style, marked 1876, and graduated from 100 to 1,000 yards.

Marked on the barrel of the barrel is the following:

WINCHESTER'S-REPEATING ARMS. NEW HAVEN, CT.
KING'S-IMPROVEMENT-PATENTED-MARCH 29, 1866. OCTOBER 16, 1860

On top of the upper tang the marking:

MODEL.1876.

The lower tang is marked with the serial number, **3551**, in minute numerals, between the cocking lever latch and the lower tang screw.

A Winchester Proof monogram (**W P** intertwined) within an oval is stamped on the top of the barrel breech, forward of the hand-engraved inscription:

One of One Thousand

The serial number **3551** - accompanied by initials **I.C.** - were marked on the bottom left flat of barrel (visible only when forend removed). Also appearing near that marking is the number **60254**. This stamping may be a work order for the refurbishing done by the Winchester factory in the mid-20th century. Other inspector markings were also noted.

The number **3551** marked on bottom of the barrel had the first two digits, **35**, overstamped lightly with an X, meaning that **51** remained.

The serial number **3551** appears on the breech end of the magazine tube, accompanied by initials **I.C.**

The number **51** appears on the carrier, carrier arm and lever. The number was X-d out on the lever.

The hammer and the dust cover were marked **89**.

The carrier and lever were marked **89**, as well as **51**.

Each side plate was marked **57**, the number then was X-d out, with the number **89** marked adjacent.

The buttstock recess for the upper tang was marked **160**.

The number **160** appears on the left side of the lower tang, then X-d out. The number **89** was marked nearby, also on the tang, accompanied by **XXX** indicating quality wood.

For some unknown reason the size of the checkering on the forend is larger than that on the wrist of the buttstock. The buttplate is of a Sharps rifle configuration.

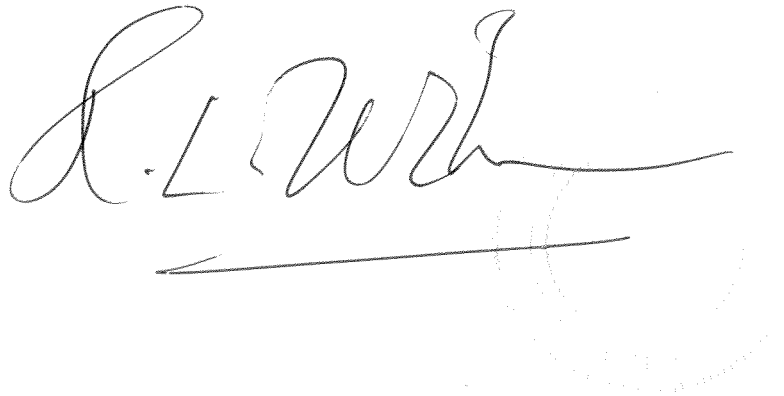
CONCLUSION

With its several intriguing features, strong history, association with the Winchester-Universal Pictures "Winchester '73" film research, and the desirable 30-inch barrel, Number **3551** is one of the more striking specimens of the Model 1876 1 of 1000 located to date. Highly desirable are the silver barrel band inlays and Ulrich scroll engraving at muzzle and breech, and that magical script inscription at the barrel breech:

One of One Thousand

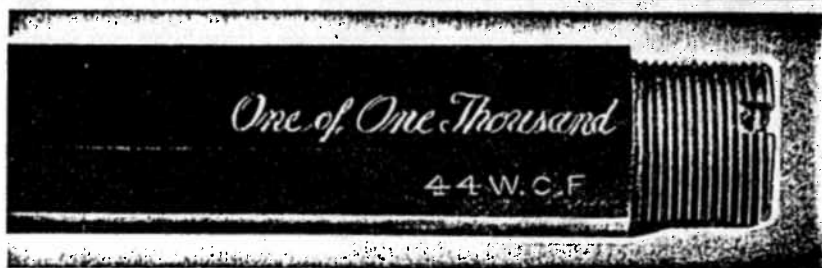
To reiterate: **No single Winchester variation has greater public appeal than the 1 of 100 and 1 of 1000 custom rifles.**

Number **3551** is a significant specimen, one of only 51 ever made, and well worthy of an important private or museum collection.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "R. L. Ulrich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right. Below the signature, there is a faint, circular embossed seal or stamp.

WANTED!

REPORT OF HEREABOUTS OF THE 123 ARE, HISTORIC GUNS OF THE ONE OF ONE THOUSAND" VINCHESTER 73 RIFLES



HOW TO IDENTIFY A "ONE OF ONE THOUSAND"
It must be a Winchester lever action repeating rifle Model 73, and **MUST** have the words "One of One Thousand" engraved on the top of the barrel.

The revolutionary Model 73 developed for Indian fighting and hunting has long been famous in history as "The Gun That Won the West." Of 720,610 of these lever action repeating rifles which were made, only 124 were of the super-accurate variety known as the "One of One Thousand." These were the most sought after guns of their time.

One gun of this variety appears as the "hero" with James Stewart and Shelley Winters in the new Universal-International motion picture "Winchester 73" which glorifies this famous rifle. This prized gun was borrowed for use in the picture from the Museum of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company of New Haven.

Because of their historic interest Universal is conducting a nationwide search for the whereabouts of the other 123 "One of One Thousand" rifles manufactured from 1875 to 1881.

REWARD! . . . The first 20 persons reporting the ownership of an authentic "One of One Thousand" Model 73 will receive as a gift from Universal brand new Winchester Model 94 deer rifle which is the modern version of the 73 if they supply the following notarized information: the serial number of the rifle, facts about its previous ownership or history if known, a photograph of the words "One of One Thousand" on the top of the barrel.

If you own one of these guns write to:
Winchester 73 Dept., Universal Pictures Co., Inc.
445 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.

The postmark will indicate your priority. After the serial number has been authenticated, a new Model 94 will be awarded to you.

This nationwide search began in May with an article in The American Rifleman and will close on Sept. 30, 1950. Remember, we don't want your "One of One Thousand" Model 73. We are only trying to find out how many of them are still in existence.

(Prince of Wales), Theodore Roosevelt, Charles M. Russell, Annie Oakley, General Philip H. Sheridan, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles, Granville Stuart, Thomas Stuart, and Oliver F. Winchester himself. For Colts—Prince Albert (Consort of Queen Victoria), the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia, Czar Alexander II, King Alphonso of Spain, James T. Ames of Ames Mfg. Co., General Robert Anderson, General N. P. Banks, Prince Louis of Bentheim, Professor J. D. Butler (author of the technical section of the first Colt book, *Armsmear*), Simon Cameron, The Earl of Cardigan, George Catlin, Charles XV of Sweden and Norway, President Grover Cleveland, Hon. and Mrs. Howell Cobb, W. F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, Caldwell H. Colt, Colonel Samuel Colt, Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, Captain Jack Crawford, the Austrian Princess Maria Cristina, General George Armstrong Custer, Porfirio Diaz, Governor and Mrs. John B. Floyd, Frederick VII of Denmark, Ulysses S. Grant, Horace Greeley (and Mrs. Greeley), William S. Harney, Colonel Augustus G. Hazard, J. B. "Wild Bill" Hickok, various Indian maharajahs, the Imam of Muscat, General Robert E. Lee, G. W. "Pawnee Bill" Lilly, President Abraham Lincoln, General J. K. F. Mansfield, General R. B. Marcy, W. B. "Bat" Masterson, Grand Duke Michael of Russia, General John Hunt Morgan, Governor Andrew B. Moore of Alabama, General George B. McClellan, Major Ben McCulloch, General Irvin McDowell, General W. Gibbs McNeill, Major General James B. McPherson, Napoleon III, John Y. Nelson (stagecoach driver for Buffalo Bill's Wild West show), Czar Nicholas I, Marshal Jean Jacques Pelisier of France, General (before his presidency) Franklin Pierce, Robert A. Pinkerton, President James K. Polk, Generals Amaro Pombro and Aureliano Rivera of Mexico, General Andrew Porter, Theodore Roosevelt, Colonel J. W. Ripley, General William S. Rosecrans, Elisha King Root, E. S. Sanford, Major

General Philip H. Sheridan, General T. W. Sherman, the King and Queen of Siam, Jack Sinclair (bandleader, Dodge City Cowboy Band), Sitting Bull, Granville Stuart, the Sultan of Turkey, various Texas Rangers and other peace officers, Marshal Bill Tilghman, Philadelphia socialite James Janeway Van Syckel, Walter Winans, and Annie Oakley. If other makers were considered, such as Smith & Wesson and Remington, the listing could be expanded considerably.

THE WINCHESTER 1 OF 100/1 OF 1000 RIFLES

The 1 of 100 and 1 of 1000 Winchesters fit neatly into the mold of deluxe, high-grade, customized American arms. Most importantly these were rifles having special qualities of accuracy. Quoting from the factory's 1875 catalogue, which announced the species:

... The barrel of every sporting rifle we make will be proved and shot at a target, and the target will be numbered to correspond with the barrel and be attached to it.

All of those barrels that are found to make targets of extra merit will be made up into guns with set-triggers and extra finish, and marked as a designating name "one of a thousand," and sold at \$100. The next grade of barrels, not quite so fine, will be marked "one of a hundred," and set up to order in any style at \$20 advance over the list price of the corresponding style of gun as shown in price-list.

Standard on most of the 1 of 100 and 1 of 1000 rifles were: extra-fine quality of finish, case hardened frame, hammer and lever, checkered select walnut stocks, set trigger, and octagon barrel. Options sometimes found in addition or in place of the foregoing were: Figured stocks graded from X to XXXX, special sights such as long range, Beach, peep, vernier peep, buckhorn, globe, special leaf, Winchester combination, wind gauge, or even

VARIETY OF ARMS.

It is the purpose of the manufacturers of these arms to introduce a greater variety than has heretofore been made, to meet the different purposes and uses to which they are applicable, whether for sporting or war. Among these the demands of the amateur sportsman are the most exacting, for an arm that will shoot with unerring accuracy.

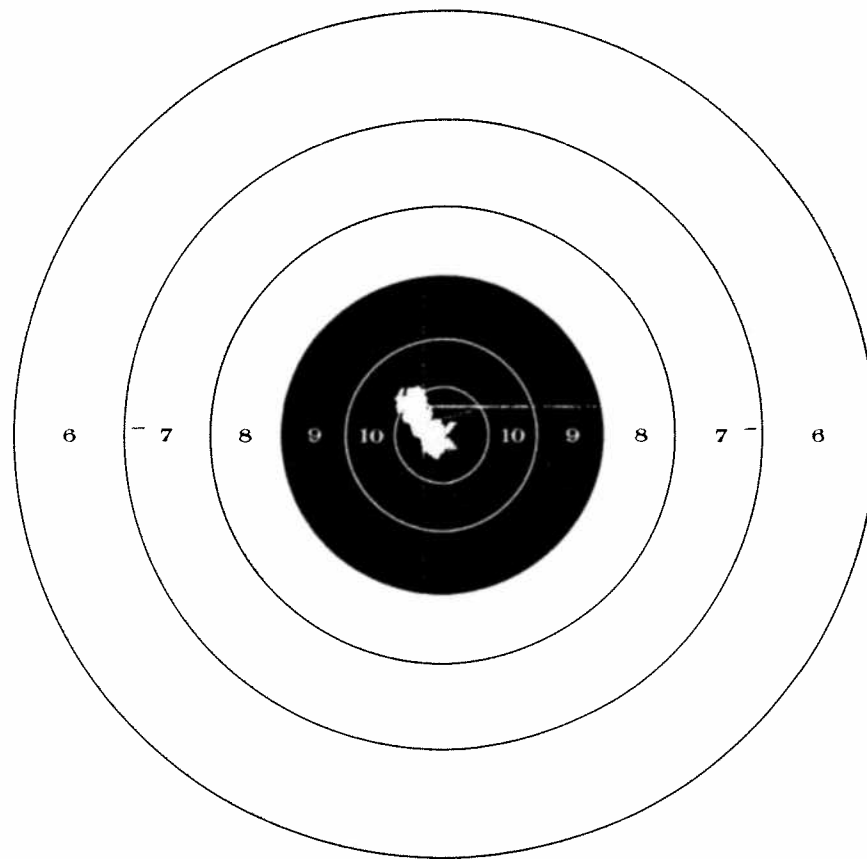
With the perfect machinery and great skill of the men we employ in boring, rifling, straightening, polishing, and finishing our barrels, we can always count with confidence upon any barrel shooting with accuracy; but in this, as in all other cases, the degree of accuracy will vary. The barrel of every sporting rifle we make will be proved and shot at a target, and the target will be numbered to correspond with the barrel and be attached to it.

All of those barrels that are found to make targets of extra merit will be made up into guns with set-triggers and extra finish, and marked as a designating name "one of a thousand," and sold at \$100. The next grade of barrels, not quite so fine, will be marked "one of a hundred," and set up to order in any style at \$20 advance over the list price of the corresponding style of gun as shown in price list.

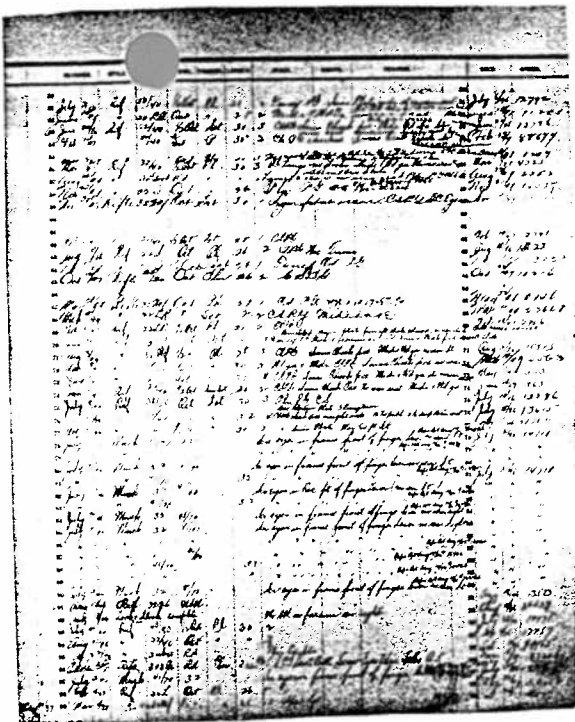
The 1 of 1000 and 1 of 100 Winchesters, as presented in the company's catalogue for 1875. *Courtesy of Winchester Arms Museum, Buffalo Bill Historical Center.*

"none"; short magazine; 1/2 nickel; blue, silver, or gold finish; swivel, or sling and swivel; varnished stock; pistol grip stock; Swiss butt-plate; engraving, monogram, or inscriptions; plain trigger; round barrel and barrels longer or shorter than standard; and half octagon barrel. In the Model 1873 the caliber was nearly always 44 W.C.F. (.44-40), and in the 1876, the caliber was generally .45-75 or .45-60. The charts in Chapters II, III, IV, and V give the precise totals of all recorded details, and were drawn up from entries in the factory ledgers. The figures are not taken from known specimen rifles, so the reader should consider the fact that in some instances clerks made errors of omission, and in a few instances, errors of fact.

Initial shipments began in April of 1875, and the final 1 of



None of the original targets shot by factory testers with 1 of 100 or 1 of 1000 rifles is known to have survived. Collector Dr. Robert Anthony DePalma fired this impressive group, at 50 yards distance, with his 1 of 1000 rifle number 27140 on March 29th 1980. Standard factory .44-40 loads were used, and the number of shots totalled four.



Specimen page from the Winchester factory ledger books, source of the research material presented in the background letters supplied by the Winchester Arms Museum, Buffalo Bill Historical Center. Funded by a grant from the James H. Woods Foundation, the ledgers have undergone deacidification treatment to prevent otherwise inevitable self-destruction. Winchester Arms Museum, Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

100/1000 arms left the factory in December of 1893. Total numbers of rifles were as follows:

MODEL 1873	MODEL 1876
1 of 100 8	1 of 100 7
1 of 1000 133	1 of 1000 51

Early rifles were more likely to be inscribed with the numeric *1 of 1000*, rather than the words *One of One Thousand*. As the series evolved, the spelled-out inscription became standard. The digital 1 of 1000 was not standard accompanied by any barrel engraving or inlaid bands. On the *One of One Thousand* inscribed arms an inlaid barrel band at the breech and muzzle was standard (of silver or platinum), as well as scroll engraving.

Noteworthy variation exists in the configuration of the 1 of 100/1 of 1000 series. Fortunately, the original Winchester factory ledgers exist, and these are the paramount source in studying and assessing any particular piece. In some instances an expert's opinion is also important. Some false factory letters have been produced, as well as fake rifles marked with spurious numbers coinciding with known 1 of 100 and 1 of 1000 serials. Thus the buyer should exercise caution in considering purchase of specimen rifles. To counter such fraudulent practices the Winchester Arms Museum has adopted the practice of embossing their historical letters with a special seal, and has instituted certain other precautionary measures privy to their staff. Research letters are presently available at \$25 each, and a specimen is pictured herein.

In order to avoid providing information useful to nefarious persons intent on faking 1 of 100 and 1 of 1000 rifles, serial numbers and specific features have not been provided in the present volume on specimens which are not actually illustrated. Some listings of numbers have been published, and even mimeographed lists are encountered. However, the reader should be aware that



MR. RICHARD RATTENBURY, CURATOR
WINCHESTER MUSEUM
BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER
P. O. BOX 1000
CODY, WYOMING 82414

DEAR MR. RATTENBURY:

THE STATISTICAL DATA FOR MODEL 1873, SERIAL NUMBER 7776, AS EXTRACTED FROM THE ORIGINAL WINCHESTER RECORDS HOUSED IN OUR MUSEUM, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

RIFLE
44 CALIBER
28 INCH OCTAGON BARREL
NET TRIGGER
XXX CHECKERED STOCK
CASE HARDENED
1 OF 1000
RECEIVED IN THE WAREHOUSE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1875
SHIPPED FROM THE WAREHOUSE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1875

ANY OTHER SPECIFICATIONS NOT LISTED ABOVE MUST BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING BEEN STANDARD AT THE TIME.

NO OTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FOR THIS SERIAL NUMBER.

SINCERELY YOURS,

William L. Porter
WILLIAM L. PORTER
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Specimen research letter supplied by the Winchester Arms Museum, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, in response to serial number requests. The information presented applies specifically to Winchester arms by model and serial number. Due to matters of logistics and other considerations, these letters are not based on physical examinations of arms, and thus are not intended as individual documents of authenticity. Note use of an embossed seal over the signature of Research Associate William L. Porter.

these sources are incomplete and incorporate erroneous specifications.

Four details for the buyer of a 1 of 100/1 of 1000 to substantiate legitimacy were presented in the author's *The Book of Winchester Engraving*, page 196:

1. The source of the gun must be known as an honest dealer, collector, or individual.
2. The seller must be prepared to back up the gun with a money-back guarantee—in a legal, written document.
3. The gun must check out against bonafide Winchester factory documentation (in the unusual circumstance of a ledger error, that error should be obvious).
4. Do not assume the rifle to be genuine solely on the basis of a letter; some pieces have been falsely serial numbered and altered to match known factory information. Note: Genuine specimens have the 1 of 100 or 1 of 1000 inscription only on the top of the breech of the barrel. All have factory research data available, by contacting the Winchester Museum, Cody, Wyoming 82414. The buyer may also wish to have the rifle examined by a recognized expert.

“WINCHESTER ’73,”
WITH JAMES STEWART

Hollywood played a key role in establishing the 1 of 1000 Winchester's fame in the eyes of arms enthusiasts and the general public. *“Winchester ’73”* was a production of Universal Pictures, starring James Stewart and Shelley Winters. The film was a fictional story of a 1 of 1000 Model 1873 which had been

Poster advertising the James Stewart–Shelley Winters film, *Winchester ’73*, c. 1950. *Don Look Collection*; color transparency courtesy of Winchester Arms Museum, Buffalo Bill Historical Center.



won as a shooting prize. The Stuart N. Lake script is believed to have been loosely based on the story of outlaw-lawman Henry N. Brown, who had been presented a finely engraved and inscribed Winchester Model 1873 rifle by the citizens of Caldwell, Kansas, in December of 1882. The gift was in appreciation of Brown's "valuable services rendered on behalf of the citizens," and documentation on the piece is substantial. Approximately one year after the presentation, Brown and three accomplices robbed a bank in neighboring Medicine Lodge. Brown and gang were captured the day of the robbery, and that night all four were killed by a lynch mob. In a final letter to his wife, written in the Medicine Lodge jail, Brown apologized for his errant ways, and urged her to sell all his things, "but keep the Winchester." The rifle, number 33669, was a gift to the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, from the James H. Woods Foundation, and is pictured on page 22.

Three prop Model 1873 1 of 1000s were made up for the "Winchester '73" film: numbers 551816, 703161, and 706717. On the barrel breech was inscribed in large script: *One of One Thousand*. Serial 551816 is pictured on pages 44 and 102 and was the rifle regularly used by Stewart in the film.

In one of the most unusual, effective, and far-reaching promotions in the firearms field, Winchester worked with Universal Pictures in a search for original 1 of 1000 rifles. The quite ambitious program was under the supervision of public relations executive William H. Depperman, of Steve Hannagan Associates, New York City. Page 44 illustrates the "Wanted" handbill published for nationwide distribution; some 150,000 were printed, and placed in the hands of 50,000 Winchester dealers, plus "20,000 chiefs of police, daily and weekly newspapers, radio stations, every rifle club affiliated with the National Rifle Association . . . and shown in approximately 7,000 motion picture theaters. . . ."* An article by Depperman in the May 1950

the American Rifleman magazine launched the search, and the official closing date for notification on specimen rifles was September 30, 1950. The handbill made it clear that Universal and Winchester did not "... want your 'One of One Thousand' Model 73. We are only trying to find out how many of them are still in existence." The reward for the first twenty persons reporting ownership was a Model 94 rifle, with compliments of Universal Pictures.

The October 1950 *The American Rifleman* carried a second article by Depperman, reporting that the search had located 23 1 of 1000 Model 1873s and six 1 of 1000 Model 1876s. The Model 1873 rifles were listed by serial number, and identified as to owner and known pedigree. Serial numbers listed were, for the Model 1873, 1213, 3548, 6594, 7282, 7778, 10036, 10695, 10950, 11217, 18070, 18386, 18521, 19675, 23385, 23488, 25829, 27141, 30783, 31268, 31270, 35290, 37944, and 44262. For the Model 1876 the numbers located were not listed. The Steve Hannagan Associates 1950 "Report" listed the above pieces as located, as well as the numbers 27140, 14706, 25715, and 29547. Two additional rifles were reported by Hannagan and company as bearing numbers 58 or 201A and 2340; both of these are considered in the technical data presented on the pages which follow.

Depperman also wrote an article on these arms and the search for them in the October 1953 *Hobbies* magazine, and in an issue of *Sports Afield*, 1950. The Steve Hannagan "Report" noted above, compiled in 1950, totalled only a handful of handbound copies. The number of pages was about 130, with such inserts as photographs of nearly all the rifles found by Winchester and Universal, *The American Rifleman* articles by Depperman, the "Wanted" handbill, pedigree information and some correspondence on lo-

* Quoting the Steve Hannagan "Report" on the "One of One Thousand" search project, 1950.



The Buffalo Bill Historical Center, site of the Winchester Arms Museum, the Whitney Gallery of Western Art, the Plains Indian Museum, and the Buffalo Bill Museum.

cated rifles, a listing of serial numbers of rifles taken from the factory shipping ledgers (errors have been noted in this list), news releases on the search, copies of newspaper articles, and a general background on the entire search project. The "Report" proved of great value in the author's research, especially in that about a dozen of the rifles known in 1950 had not been relocated at this writing. Thus, the only available source of their photographs was the Hannagan "Report," in this instance a copy in the John R. Woods Collection.

"ENGRAVED LIKE 1 OF 1000"

Rare in their own right, only a few specimens of Model 1873 and 1876 rifles were built with the production statement: "engraved like 1 of 1000." In those few rifles noted by the

author the engraving appears on the barrel breech and muzzle, and features scrollwork, borders, and barrel band inlays. Only a handful of Model 1873 and Model 1876 rifles were listed in the factory ledgers as "engraved like 1 of 1000." Specimens are pictured and covered in further detail on pages 99, and 123-125.

MORE RIFLES TO BE DISCOVERED

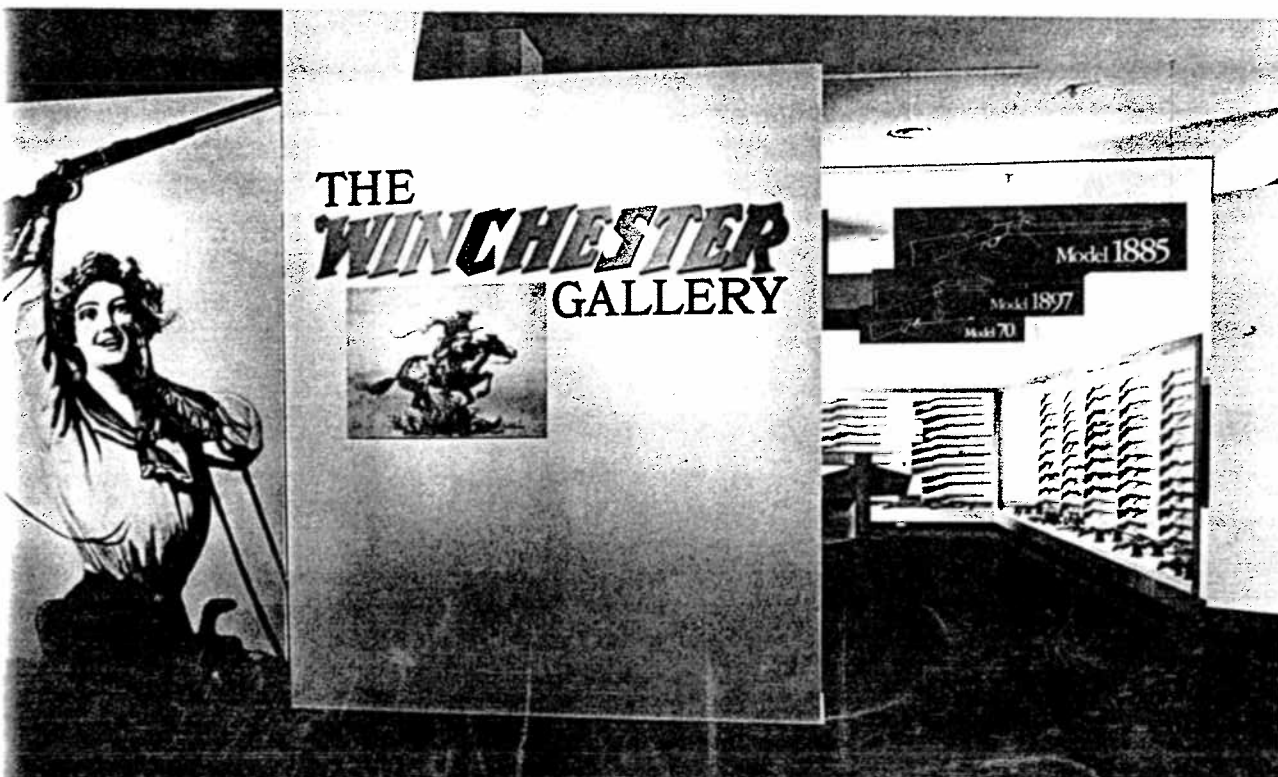
Although no Winchester has caught the fancy of both the general public and the arms enthusiast as has the 1 of 100 and 1 of 1000, more than half of the specimens made have yet to be found. Certainly, a percentage of these were lost through normal attrition, fires, floods, or other destructive elements. The author feels it likely, however, that several more rifles will be discovered

in time. Some practical considerations worth noting in assessing the likelihood of survival is that each rifle was a finely made, handsome, and expensive object. By 1983 dollar value, a \$100 rifle of a century ago would be roughly equivalent today to a high-grade sporting rifle in the \$5500 class. Having paid a substantial price for a fine and venerated, straight-shooting Winchester, the owner was unlikely to mistreat it. At this writing fifty Model 1873 1 of 1000s and four 1 of 100s have been located for illustration in the present volume; with eleven 1 of 1000 and two 1 of 100 Model 1876s also pictured. Ironically the whereabouts of some of the rifles located in the Universal Pictures-Winchester search of 1950 are now unknown, at least to the author. However, since they had been tabulated as located in 1950, they are considered in the above figures as "known."

For ease in locating specific specimens in the chapters which follow, the organization of the book has been based on serial

number sequence, within headings and subheadings based on whether a Model 1873 or 1876, and whether designated 1 of 100 or 1 of 1000. Each group (e.g., the Model 1873 1 of 100) has a tabulation of features based on the factory shipping ledgers, a brief introductory statement, and a presentation of pictures with captions of known rifles, by serial sequence. The index is designed to help in locating information, as is the table of contents.

The writer plans to continue research on the 1 of 100/1 of 1000 rifles, and would be pleased to have pictures and information on any specimens not listed and illustrated in the present book. Any correspondence should be directed to the attention of the Winchester Arms Museum, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, P.O. Box 1000, Cody, Wyoming 82414. To quote from *The Book of Winchester Engraving*, "The field [of the Winchester 1 of 100/1000] still offers plenty of challenge to the collector, and the search for these arms continues."



Partial view of the comprehensive firearms display at the Winchester Arms Museum, Buffalo Bill Historical Center. The Winchester Museum collection was begun by O. F. Winchester himself. A letter from him to R. S. Lawrence establishes clearly that the New Haven gunmaker already had an arms collection by 1871, at that time having added to his holdings by securing from Lawrence a Jennings rifle, "a connecting link in the history of our gun." In 1975 the collection was a gift to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center from Winchester Group, Olin Corporation, and in June of 1980 the museum was officially dedicated in a newly completed display facility comprising more than 14,000 square feet of gallery space.

APPENDIX

The "Winchester '73" Movie Search

THE RELEASES which follow are quoted from the Steve Hannagan "Report" of 1950 (see Chapter I, pages 45-46, and Bibliography, page 137), and had originally been issued as part of the Winchester and Universal Pictures search for 1 of 1000 rifles. The initial release was issued in the spring of 1950, and was from Bill Depperman:

From Bill Depperman
OFFICE OF STEVE HANNAGAN
247 Park Avenue
New York 17, New York

NOTE TO NEWS EDITOR

Should you use this story in which an offer is made by Universal Pictures for the award of a new rifle for the first 20 persons who report an authentic ONE OF ONE THOUSAND Model 73 Winchester, and should one of your listeners satisfactorily report his ownership of such a rifle, Universal will be glad to send the rifle to you so that it can be presented jointly by your program and Universal.

The enclosed "Wanted" handbill describes the search which is now being made.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brand new 30-30 sporting rifles suitable for deer, black bear, coyotes and the like are awaiting twenty persons who are the

unsuspecting owners of one of America's rarest and least known variety of what has been described as the most famous rifle of the early West. The rifle for which a nationwide dragnet is now out is the "One of One Thousand" variety of the lever action Winchester 73.

Any listeners of this program who qualify will receive a new rifle with the compliments of Universal Pictures and (name of your program).

Since the publication of an article in the May issue of *The American Rifleman*, official journal of the National Rifle Association of America, started the search Universal Pictures, which made its new Jimmy Stewart movie "Winchester 73" about one of these guns, has announced that the first twenty persons who satisfactorily report their ownership of one of these rare rifles will receive a brand new Model 94 deer rifle. The Model 94 is a modern descendant of the Model 73.

How many of the "One of One Thousand" rifles still survive after some 75 years since they were produced is not known. They were only made from 1875 through 1881. There may not be many. If any are found, it is possible that some as yet unknown chapters in American history will be revealed.

The first news that Universal would give a new gun for word

about the old ones was announced by Bobby Benson, youthful gun lover and cowboy star on his "B Bar B Riders" radio program broadcast over more than 400 stations of the Mutual network.

The conditions under which the rifles will be awarded follow:

The rifle must be a Model 1873 Winchester and have the words "One of One Thousand" engraved on the top of the barrel just ahead of the receiver. The present owner must supply a photograph of the engraved words "One of One Thousand" and a notarized letter stating his ownership, serial number of the rifle and such facts regarding the previous ownership or history if known. Precedence to determine the first twenty reported will be determined by the postmark on the letter which should be addressed to "Winchester 73 Department, Universal Pictures Co., Inc., 445 Park Avenue, New York 22, New York."

Only 124 [sic] of the "One of One Thousand" Model 73 rifle were produced. One of them was loaned by Winchester to Universal-International to play the leading role in the movie "Winchester 73." The rifle actually is the hero. Winchester also made two duplicates for stand-by use should the original be damaged or lost in production. The stand-bys were never used.

The present search is for the whereabouts of the other 123 "One of One Thousand" rifles. While only 124 were made of this variety, a total of 720,610 Model 73s were produced by Winchester from 1873 to 1924 when that model was discontinued.

Known as "the gun that won the West," the Model 73 has been used throughout the West and in many other parts of the world. The equally famous 44-40 ammunition which it fired was also used in the Colt six-shooter. At various times this ammunition was used as money and such cartridges are included in the world-famous currency collection of 80,000 items owned by the Chase National Bank in New York.

Another famous Model 73 is making news this year when one once used by Buffalo Bill will be presented to the Buffalo Bill

Museum in Cody, Wyoming on July 4th. This rifle is owned by Colonel Walter F. Siegmund, an executive of Winchester, who will give the gun to the Cody Museum during the Frontier Days Celebration. It will be received by Mary Jester Allen, niece of William Frederick Cody.

The gift of a free Model 1894 by Universal Pictures to the first 20 persons reporting their ownership under the conditions set forth on the handbill, played an important part as the incentive. Yet, as events were to prove, the gift of a free rifle was a negligible part of the "reward" which accrued to the owner of a "One of One Thousand." The "One of One Thousand" was the biggest reward as it rocketed to high value. The first of these rifles to be sold was purchased for \$500.00 by Robert Abels, New York dealer in antique firearms.

As a check on information regarding supposed "One of One Thousand" rifles, Mr. James C. Hartley authorized Tom Hall, Winchester Gun Museum curator, to make a check of company records to assemble the serial numbers and shipping dates of these rifles. The initial list did not contain all of these rifles manufactured, and a second check of records, along with the location of rifles previously unrecorded (all of which were authenticated) disclosed that as far as we now know 135 of these rifles were made.

Following is the current list of serial numbers of all "One of One Thousands," of which there is a record. Names which appear in the list followed by stars are present owners of the rifles.

This list is confidential and will not be offered for publication. [Not included in the present book.]

The following release reported on the results of the 1 of 1000 search, and was issued in the late summer or fall of 1950. It too was from Bill Depperman:

From: STEVE HANNAGAN
(By Bill Depperman)
247 Park Avenue
for: Olin Industries, Inc.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Haven, Conn.—Only five months ago, twenty-two persons widely scattered throughout the United States considered an obsolete lever action rifle they owned as just another one of the millions of old Winchesters.

Today, these people, one of whom paid only \$4.50 for his rifle, are the surprised owners of one of the rarest historic rifles in the country. One owner revealed he has received an offer of \$1,000 for his rifle, another refuses to part with his for less than \$2,000, and another claims his is worth \$5,000.

From obscurity these unique "One of One Thousand" Winchester Model 1873 rifles have graduated within only five months into one of the most sought after collector's items in the country. Even garden variety Model 1873's have doubled in price in the last few months. The complete story is told in the October issue of *The American Rifleman*.

That twenty-two of these extremely scarce historic rifles have been located was revealed today by James C. Hartley, director of Research of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company division of Olin Industries, Inc.

This particular variety of the Model 1873, which was popularly known as "the gun that won the West," was in extremely limited production for only about eight years. Where 720,610 rifles of the Model 1873 were produced from 1873 to 1924 when it was discontinued, only about 130 of the "One of One Thousand" variety were made. Each of these was the most accurate of every thousand Winchester Model 1873's produced.

The discovery that almost 17 percent of the unique "One of

One Thousand" rifles were still in existence came as a surprise even to Winchester. Up to May only a few people were aware that the Company had produced such a rifle. Until an article about the rifle appeared in the May issue of *The American Rifleman*, this famous gun was unknown to most of the erudite collectors of historic firearms. Then the Universal movie "Winchester 73" in which a "One of One Thousand," plays the leading role, introduced this rare rifle to millions.

It has been surmised that if 17 percent of the "One of One Thousand" rifles are still in existence, it is possible that the same percentage, or 122,000 of the Model 1873 rifle may have survived the ravages of time. No matter how many have survived they have doubled in value.

Today the ordinary 73s have graduated to collector's items and are quoted at double this price, depending upon condition. With the great attention now being paid to all 73s, it will not be surprising if the price goes even higher, according to Robert Abels, well-known New York dealer in antique firearms.

The unsuspected value of rifles owned by thousands of persons who were unaware that their old Winchesters were valuable may be the start of a renewed interest in the hobby of gun collecting and any one who owns a Model 1873 Winchester has the start of a collection, Mr. Abels says.

Just how much will be paid for a genuine "One of One Thousand" depends upon what collectors will pay for them, based largely upon the condition of the individual rifle. Yet, with only about 130 of these rifles manufactured, and only 22 known to exist, it is likely that the prices will be substantial.

The "One of One Thousand" search uncovered hundreds of Model 73s. Many have colorful histories and were used by famous bad men as well as famous good men. One was taken from the Dalton gang, another was used by Granville Stuart, discoverer of gold in Montana. Still another was described as "The gun that

won the South." One was the property of Diamond Dick, and yet another was used by Doc Carver, famous marksman of the last century who used it during his feat of smashing 60,000 of 64,000 glass balls. This incredible feat was beaten in 1906 by Ad Topperwein of San Antonio, Texas, dean of exhibition shooters, who missed only 9 out of 72,500 wooden blocks.

The "One of One Thousand" variety of the Model 1873 was officially introduced in the Winchester Catalogue of the year 1875, and a search of Company records revealed that 124 were produced from 1875 through 1881, Mr. Hartley said.

However, as the search, which was conducted by the distribution of 150,000 of the "man-wanted" type of handbill, spread throughout the United States, several previously unrecorded but authentic "One of One Thousand" rifles turned up. These were shipped back to Winchester and after careful checking by the experts pronounced genuine. The earliest "One of One Thousand" now known was shipped from the factory on July 30, 1874. Only one forgery was uncovered.

One of the more interesting facts developed by the search was that these rare rifles were engraved not only "One of One Thousand" but in some cases "1 of 1,000. [sic]."

Following are the names and addresses of the twenty-two fortunate owners of the rare "One of One Thousand" rifles: Lloyd Bender, Galion, Ohio; James T. Fowler, Osawatomie, Kan.; Louis A. Ostendorp, Berwyn, Ill.; Scott Merry, Tacoma, Wash.; Stanley W. Ollason, Hollister, Cal.; D. W. Peckham, Middlefield, Conn.; F. P. L. Mills, Old Deerfield, Mass.; Glenn E. Ellingson, San Bruno, Calif.; James R. Smith, Seattle, Wash.; Granville Stuart Abbott, Lewiston, Mont.; William W. Kessler, Whitmore, Cal.; Charles A. Alden, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Thomas H. Oster, Cloverdale, Cal.; John D. Morley, Lodi, Cal.; Sam G. Bachelder, Santa Cruz, Cal.; Richard Larsen, Visalia, Cal.; Phil M. Brown, Watseka, Ill.; T. R. Jordan, Seattle 55, Wash.; Oliver R. Jones, North Hollywood, Cal.; Harry L. Kemp, Judith Gap, Mont.; Clyde Schurman, Woodland, Wash.; John S. Friend, Gassaway, West Va.

MR. WITHERS WAS NOT LISTED
SINCE HIS GUN WAS A 76
1 OF 1000 NOT A 73.

“The barrel of every sporting rifle we make will be proved and shot at a target, and the target will be numbered to correspond with the barrel and be attached to it.

“All of those barrels that are found to make targets of extra merit will be made up into guns with set-triggers and extra finish, and marked as a designating name ‘one of a thousand,’ and sold at \$100. The next grade of barrels, not quite so fine, will be marked ‘one of a hundred,’ and set up to order in any style at \$20 advance over the list price of the corresponding style of gun as shown in price list.”

1875 catalogue of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company



Model 94 Winchester rifle that was presented to Charles A. Alden as part of the *Winchester '73* movie promotion. Alden owned Model 1873 rifle number 18070 1 of 1000. Features of the 94 are deluxe sporting carbine, 32 Winchester Special caliber, 20" barrel, deluxe checkering with Winchester capped pistol grip, serial number 1598491. The original shipping carton, still with 1598491, has "Special Order" stamped on the end label. *Joe W. Palmer Collection.*

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1950

THE TULSA TRIBUNE



'GUN THAT WON THE WEST'—Buffalo Bill Cody's trusty Winchester 73, a symbol of the old west, was presented to the Buffalo Bill museum in Cody, Wyo., by its present owner, Col. Walter F. Siegmund, above, on July 4. Colonel Siegmund is seen with the historic old repeating rifle and a copy of Frederick Remington's famous Buffalo Bill picture, "Under the Lime Light." Accepting the rifle was Mary Jester Allen, niece of Colonel Cody and director of the Buffalo Bill museum.

MOVIE NEWS

Jim Stewart Entertaining In Rifle Film

By JOHN H. BOOKER

Jimmy Stewart can always be counted on for an entertaining performance in any role and his interpretation of justice personified, pursuing human quarry in the mesa and cactus country makes "Winchester 73" an attractive western movie with lots of what's expected from this type of celluloid conveyance.

Like a number of recent westerns which take an item or incident from early-day history for plot foundation, this picture is built around the coming of the repeating rifle into a period when firearms were a must in man's equipment for safeguarding life and property.

Much western fact and fiction has long since established the revolutionary part played by the faster-firing piece in affairs of the frontier.

It is into a fictional phase of these affairs that the script writers have plunged Stewart, as one of the first owners of a coveted Winchester repeater which he wins in a marksmanship contest.

Theft of the weapon by the man who lost the shooting match starts Stewart on a chase that involves Indians, hardship in the rough country and a blonde by the name of Shelley Winters, along with some outlaws and the U. S. cavalry.

It is quite lively and its roma-



JAMES STEWART
... He's a good shot

tic touch is just enough to balance the heavier sequences.

This is another movie in which photography is by no means the least of its good points. It also provides a small lesson in history for those who missed it otherwise.

It is a Universal-International picture directed by Anthony Mann

*Robert Steele Withers
Withers Farm
Liberty, Missouri*

May 23, 1950.

Mr. Bill Depperman
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am glad to report that I am the owner of one of the "One of One Thousand" Winchester rifles. Mine is a perfect specimen; with the exception of a few scratches on the stock.

A neighbor of mine died and told his wife that he wanted me to have this gun. He was tubercular during the later years of his life and spent some years at Tombstone, Arizona. While there he traded a smaller gun for this gun.

When I acquired the gun I knew then that it was a rare specimen and wanting it as a collection item instead of a gun for service I sent it to the Winchester Company with instructions to put it in perfect condition.

I do not think the gun had ever had a speck of rust on it either inside or outside. So far as I could see it was in perfect condition when I sent it.

I was delighted with the enthusiasm shown by the Winchester factory. They re-blued it, replaced the front sight and replaced a small screw at the base of the trigger and that was all.

They then wrote and asked permission to target the gun out saying that if they could find no ammunition for it they would make some. Of course I gladly gave them permission.

They reported that they had found some ammunition in a warehouse and had tried the gun out to their satisfaction and that it was as accurate as it could ever have been.

They also told me that their records showed that this gun had been sold in Tombstone, Arizona in 1876 and that it sold for \$125.00.

*Robert Steele Withers
Withers Farm
Liberty, Missouri*

I think the gun has belonged to only three owners during its 74 or 75 years.

I am a farmer and have a small collection of guns and curios and relics of which I am very fond.

When you compile your list of the survivors of these old guns I would appreciate a copy if you have one to spare.

I have seen only one man who ever saw one of these rifles before. He sheared sheep for me once and he said his father owned one. His father was a big sheep owner in Durango, Colorado. I'm sorry I do not remember the son's last name. His first name was Hugh and I'm sure the father would be dead by this time. They were Catholics.

I must admit this is a slim clue but you might have some connection in that city that could help you.

If I can be of further service let me know.

Very truly yours,

Robert Steele Withers

Robert S. Withers
Withers Farm, R.F.D. # 2
Liberty, Missouri

Robert S. Withers
Withers Farm, R.F.D.# 2
Liberty, Missouri

Winchester 73 Department
Universal Pictures Co. Inc.
445 Park Avenue
New York, New York

Gentlemen:

I enclose an affidavit certified by a Notary Public, with attached pictures, of a Winchester "One of One Thousand" rifle which I own.

This is sent in response to a poster I received a few days ago.

If this reaches you with sufficient priority, and you find that the rifle therein described meets the required specifications, it will be a pleasure to receive the new Winchester model 94 deer rifle mentioned in your poster.

Irrespective of the prize, it has been a pleasure to acquaint you with this rifle which I prize very highly.

June 10, 1950.

BW:pg

Very truly yours,

Robert S. Withers
Robert S. Withers

#9

STATE OF MISSOURI }
COUNTY OF CLAY } ss

Robert S. Withers, of R.F.D.# 2, Liberty,
Missouri, being duly sworn upon his oath states as follows:

1. That he is the owner of the Winchester "One of One Thousand" Rifle, photographs of which are attached hereto showing the rifle as a whole in one view and the words "One of One Thousand" on top of the barrel in the other view. These pictures were made by Russell D. Ray, photographer, Liberty, Missouri, June 8th, 1950.

2. This rifle had belonged to Claude Hardwick, now deceased, a resident of Liberty, Missouri, for many years, who was tubercular during the later years of his life and spent some years in Tombstone, Arizona. I am told that while there he traded a smaller gun for this gun. He had told his wife that he wanted me to have this gun and after his death she gave it to me. I had possession of the gun during his latter years of life and retained possession after her gift.

3. Some years ago I sent the gun to the Winchester Company with instructions to put it in perfect condition, although it was in practically perfect condition at the time. They replaced the front sight, and inserted the small screw at the base of the trigger. It was then reblued and I understand that was all that they did to it. The Winchester people also told me that their records showed that this gun had been sold in Tombstone, Arizona, in 1876 for \$125.00.

4. The serial number which appears on the gun is #89.
WITNESS my hand this 10th day of June, 1950.

Robert S. Withers.....

Subscribed and sworn to before the undersigned Notary Public within and for said County and State, on the day and year last above written.

Gerald Kiser.....
Notary Public within and for Clay
County, Missouri

My commission expires *Sept. 21*.....19*52*.

#9

Robert S. Withers
Withers Farm
R.F.D.# 2

Missouri



#9

JUNE 1, 1950

MR. ROBERT STEELE WITHERS
WITHERS FARM
LIBERTY, MISSOURI

DEAR MR. WITHERS:

CONGRATULATIONS ON OWNING A "ONE OF
ONE THOUSAND". IF WINCHESTER SAID THAT'S WHAT
IT IS, IT MUST BE A GENUINE ONE, AND I KNOW
YOU MUST BE PROUD OF IT.

YOU WILL HEAR FROM ME FURTHER ABOUT
THIS SHORTLY.

CORDIALLY YOURS,

W. H. DEPPERMAN

WHD:CU

cc D. C. CRONIN
T. HALL
R. A. McMAHON
R. S. MAY

89

STEVE HANNAGAN

247 PARK AVENUE • NEW YORK, 17

Telephone Plaza 5-2900

JUNE 14, 1950

MR. ROBERT S. WITHERS
WITHERS FARM, R.F.D. #2
LIBERTY, MISSOURI

DEAR MR. WITHERS:

AS WE ARE PUBLICITY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS COMPANY DIVISION OF OLIN INDUSTRIES, INC., YOUR NOTARIZED LETTER OF JUNE 10TH REGARDING YOUR OWNERSHIP OF A "ONE OF ONE THOUSAND" VARIETY OF THE MODEL 1873 HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO US BY UNIVERSAL PICTURES COMPANY, INC., WHICH HAS ASKED US TO FOLLOW THROUGH.

YOUR LETTER IS GOING FORWARD FOR FINAL OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION TO MR. EDWARD HARTSHORNE OF THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OF WINCHESTER, AND YOU WILL HEAR FROM HIS OFFICE SHORTLY. AFTER CONFIRMATION HAS BEEN MADE BY WINCHESTER, UNIVERSAL WILL SHIP A NEW MODEL 91 TO YOU, ADDRESSED TO WITHERS FARM, R.F.D. #2, LIBERTY, MO.

TO COMPLETE WINCHESTER'S RECORDS ON YOUR GUN, WOULD YOU PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR "ONE OF ONE THOUSAND," SERIAL NUMBER 894-1-179

I hope to think that this is the serial number.
E. Hall July 1, 1950

STYLE (MUSKET, RIFLE, CARBINE)
LENGTH OF BARREL
TYPE OF BARREL
TYPE OF STOCK
TRIGGER (SET OR FLAT)
ANY SPECIAL FEATURES

AS WE MAY SOMETIME LATER ON FIND USE FOR A REPRODUCTION OF THE WORDS "ONE OF ONE THOUSAND" AS THEY APPEAR ON YOUR RIFLE, WOULD IT BE ASKING TOO MUCH TO BORROW THE NEGATIVE FROM WHICH YOU MADE YOUR PHOTOGRAPH? IN LENDING THE NEGATIVE, WOULD YOU PLEASE AUTHORIZE US TO USE IT FOR PUBLICATION?

CORDIALLY YOURS,

Bill
W. H. DEPPERMAN

CC: MESSRS. E. HARTSHORNE
D. C. CROHN
P. GERARD

(NEGS.)

#9

Ans. June 25th 50.

WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS COMPANY

DIVISION OF OLIN INDUSTRIES, INC.

NEW HAVEN, 4, CONNECTICUT, U. S. A.

WINCHESTER
TRADE MARK

June 15, 1950

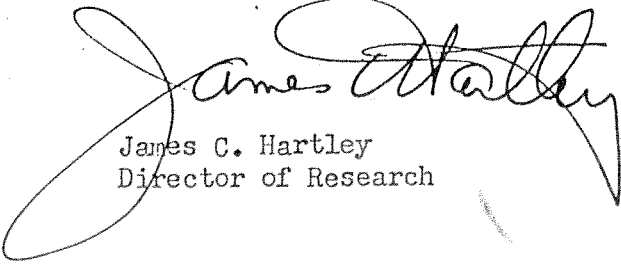
Mr. Robert S. Withers
Withers Farm, R.F.D. #2
Liberty, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Withers:

We are happy to advise you that your Model 73 rifle,
serial No. 89 has been checked against the company records,
which authenticates it as a "One of One Thousand".

Congratulations on the ownership of this rare rifle!
You will be interested to know that your gun was shipped from
Winchester on January 26, 1874.

Sincerely yours,
WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS COMPANY
Division of Olin Industries, Inc.


James C. Hartley
Director of Research

H/c

WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS COMPANY

DIVISION OF OLIN INDUSTRIES, INC.

NEW HAVEN, 4, CONNECTICUT, U. S. A.

WINCHESTER
TRADE MARK

June 22, 1950

Mr. Robert S. Withers
Withers Farm, R.F.D. #2
Liberty, Missouri

Dear Mr. Withers:

With the confirmation by Mr. James C. Hartley, Director of Research, of your ownership of one of the rare "One of One Thousand" variety of the Winchester Model 1873, Universal Pictures Company, Inc., has given us an order to ship to you a new Model 1894 lever action rifle.

Your rifle is being shipped out today and we hope you have happy hunting with it. Our Model 94 is America's most famous modern rifle and, as you may know, is the lineal descendent of your own Model 73.

You will now own the finest lever action of earlier days as well as the finest of today.

Cordially yours,

WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS COMPANY
Division of Olin Industries, Inc.



W. H. Andre
Sales Office Manager

m

STEVE HANNAGAN

PUBLICITY

247 PARK AVENUE • NEW YORK, 17

Telephone, PLaza 5-2900

JULY 5, 1950

MR. ROBERT S. WITHERS
WITHERS FARM, R.F.D. #2
LIBERTY, MISSOURI

DEAR MR. WITHERS:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR LETTER OF
JUNE 24TH.

I AM SENDING A COPY OF IT TO UNIVERSAL
PICTURES FOR THEM TO FOLLOW UP IN CONNECTION WITH
THE SHOWING OF "WINCHESTER '73" IN KANSAS CITY.

CORDIALLY YOURS,

W. H. Depperman

W. H. DEPPERMAN

CC: MR. PHILIP GERARD
UNIVERSAL PICTURES Co., INC.

STEVE HANNAGAN

PUBLICITY

247 PARK AVENUE • NEW YORK, 17

Telephone, PLaza 9-2900

JULY 6, 1950

MR. ROBERT S. WITHERS
WITHERS FARM, R.F.D. #2
LIBERTY, MISSOURI

DEAR MR. WITHERS:

WE ARE VERY MUCH OBLIGED TO YOU
FOR THE LOAN OF THE NEGATIVE OF THE INSCRIPTION
"ONE OF ONE THOUSAND" ON YOUR WINCHESTER MODEL
73, AND WE ARE RETURNING IT HEREWITH.

CORDIALLY YOURS,

W. H. Depperman

W. H. DEPPERMAN

ENC/1

P. S. ENCLOSED ALSO ARE THE TWO NEGATIVES SHOWING
THE FULL LENGTH OF YOUR MODEL 73.

THANK YOU AGAIN.

W. H. D.

STEVE HANNAGAN

247 PARK AVENUE • NEW YORK, 17

Telephone PLaza 5-2900

July 10, 1950

Dear Mr. Withers:-

Your note of July 7th addressed to Mr. Hannagan enclosing a letter to Universal Pictures, has been received.

The letter to Universal Pictures was properly addressed and promptly forwarded. In case you should have cause to communicate with them again, their address is as follows:

Universal Pictures Company, Inc.
445 Park Avenue
New York City

That does not mean, however, that we were not delighted to do this for you which indeed we were.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Ray, Sec'y to
Steve Hannagan

MR:s.

Mr. Robert Steele Withers
Withers Farm
Liberty, Missouri

STEVE HANNAGAN
PUBLICITY

247 PARK AVENUE - NEW YORK, 17

Telephone, Plaza 5-2900

JULY 19, 1950

MR. ROBERT S. WITHERS
WITHERS FARM
LIBERTY, MISSOURI

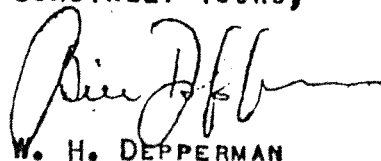
DEAR MR. WITHERS:

THANKS TO YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 24TH, YOU HAVE
CORRECTED THE OVERSIGHT OF AUTHENTICATING YOUR MODEL 76
AS A MODEL 73. WE REGRET THAT THIS FACT WAS NOT CLEARLY
UNDERSTOOD AT THE OUTSET, BUT IT IN NO WAY INTERFERES
WITH YOUR RIGHT TO HAVE THE MODEL 94 RIFLE WHICH I HOPE
WILL GIVE YOU GOOD HUNTING.

I HOPE THAT THIS MISCHANCE DOES NOT NOR WILL
EMBARRASS YOU AND DARE SAY IT WON'T, BUT I THOUGHT, IN
ALL FAIRNESS, THAT WHEN WE RELEASE THE REST OF THE NAMES
OF OWNERS OF MODEL 73 "ONE OF ONE THOUSANDS," YOU SHOULD
CORRECT THE MOMENTARY ERROR REGARDING YOUR RIFLE.

WITH EVERY GOOD WISH.

CORDIALLY YOURS,


W. H. DEPPERMAN

COPIES TO: MESSRS. ANDRE
CRONIN
E. HARTSHORNE

Robert S. Withers
Withers Farm
R.F.D. # 2
Liberty, Missouri

Mr. W. H. Depperman
c/o Steve Hannagan
247 Park Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Depperman:

This is in reply to your letter of June 14, 1950 concerning my "One of One Thousand" Winchester rifle.

As to style this gun is a rifle.

The barrel is 30 inches in length, and of octagon cross-section.

The stock is a pistol grip type, perhaps better called a semi-pistol-grip, in which the grip follows the lever under the gun that actuates it. It is of the crotch of a walnut stock, and very beautifully marked as to grain. I believe it is Circassian walnut. It has a shot gun butt rather than the conventional rifle butt of that period.

The trigger is a plain trigger with an adjusting screw as to pull, so that it can be adjusted for an extremely light pull.

The front sight appears to be of light bronze. Turned with the circle up it shows a black post with a round point in the midst of the bronze circle. Turned with the circle down it presents a short bronze post with a faint tip of silver color.

The decoration shown in the photograph at the base of the barrel is repeated in a little less design at the front end. At each end of the barrel there appears a silver disk around the cross section.

The ^{rear} front sight is an open hunting sight with a straight V, which turns up for elevation presenting another V and graduation running to apparently a thousand yards moving in the figures from 1 to 10. A close inspection of this sight, for discovering unusual features, has disclosed the figures 1876, at the top of the elevating bar.

Further close examinations have indicated a faint inscription of model 1876 on the metal at the top of the stock to rear of the hammer. These are too faint for my eyes, but were pointed out by a member of the family. This causes me to think that the gun may not be exactly what you are looking for.

Of course, I'll be disappointed if it doesn't match the specifications, but that won't change the gun any.

Anyway, it is a beautiful "curio" and I have long enjoyed having it.

I have procured the negatives from the photographer and ^{send them separately} ~~enclose~~ them herewith. I didn't ask him about returning them, but they are of his ~~professional~~ ^{regular} file. He would probably be tickled to death if he

ever got a photographers credit, although he didn't mention it. The photographer is Russell D. Ray, Liberty, Missouri. You have my authorization to use the negatives for publication.

If there is any other question about it please let me know.

Very truly yours,

June 21, 1950

Robert S. Withers

RSW:mg

Since you are interested in the publicity end of this project I have been thinking of a way to cooperate and have thought that when this picture is first shown in Kansas City that I might lend this gun to the house in which it was shown for the duration of the first run.

I, of course, would want it well secured and protected in every way.

My idea is to have a plate glass ^{or lucite (plastic)} case made for it and have the case erected on a pedestal in the lobby with appropriate labels and a short notice of the same shown on the screen. I will want the case placed low enough for

When they were through with the gun I will go over and get it and ~~since~~ since they would have no further use for the case I would like to have this case and I will want a few tickets to the show.

There will be no further charges.

Indicate to all it is a loan

COLLECTING CURIOUS WEAPONS

A PEACEFUL FARMER'S HOBBY

Sarah Erwin McLean

If some unfortunate prowler ever makes the mistake of getting into a certain room in a farm home near Liberty, Missouri, he will probably break a leg in his rush to get out, for he will swear he has stumbled into a guarded section of the state arsenal. Guns and other weapons practically line two walls of the room, and here and there against a wall or case stands a gun looking very much cocked and convenient for the occupant. This is the private room of Robert S. Withers, 32° K.C.C.H., and collecting curios, especially weapons, is Mr. Withers' hobby.

The collection was started when Mr. Withers was a boy and found amusement in hunting Indian arrowheads near his father's farm. As he grew older his interest broadened to include weapons of all sorts, especially the curious and historical.

About the wickedest looking weapon in the whole collection is an Igorote head hunter's axe. A chill goes along my spine whenever I think of this terrible two-bladed implement, carving tool or whatever you want to call it. The narrow blade, less than an inch wide and neither pointed nor sharp, is the killing blade. Not sharp for quick death, but cruelly blunt. The other blade is broad, perhaps eight inches at the widest point, and curved. It is used to sever the victim's head from his body. I am told the Igorote head hunters decorate their dining halls with the dried heads of their victims.

Maybe they want something with a bit more class than the deer heads, fish heads, and one thing and another that civilized man finds so beautiful.

A Chinese beheading knife hangs beside the head hunter's axe. Anything but a delicate instrument, that. Why, I wonder, does the Chinese beheading knife have a curve outward from the main body of the blade, while the head hunter's axe has an inward curve. But why bother, they are both dangerous curves, if you ask me.

There is something about the carved iron Hindoo shield in the Withers collection that started me to thinking of a peculiar trait in man. In battle he goes out to meet his enemy with all possible beauty in his paraphernalia. Some Hindu put in a world of work on that cold-carved shield. It was a thing that would add glamour to his defense, and if he died, glory to his death. Or, perhaps, he hoped to bring divine protection by some of the figures he carved there.

Certainly symbolism and religion enter into the making of swords by the Igorotes and the Sulus of the Philippine Islands. The Igorotes decorate the hilts of their swords with the figure of a game rooster's head on one side and the tail on the other. This is their symbol of courage and the fighting spirit. But the Sulus are Mohamadans, who do not make graven images, so their sword hilts are without decoration. Examples of both

these types of swords are in this collection of weapons.

A group of four spears used by Philippine natives includes three of native manufacture and one with a native stock and Spanish spear head of medieval type. The spear head was doubtless taken to the Islands during the Spanish possession.

In his collection of swords Mr. Withers has a Persian three-sided sword. What idea the Persians had in developing a three-sided sword Mr. Withers did not know. To me this weapon looked like an over-sized reamer. Thrust into a victim and given a turn or two—Chills and cold creeps again! Let's remember the Persians for their rugs.

Other "cutlery" includes a Laplander's dueling knife with a sheath and hilt made of a reindeer rib, and a cutlass captured in the Battle of Lake Erie when the supremacy of the Great Lakes was de-



—Photo by Moore

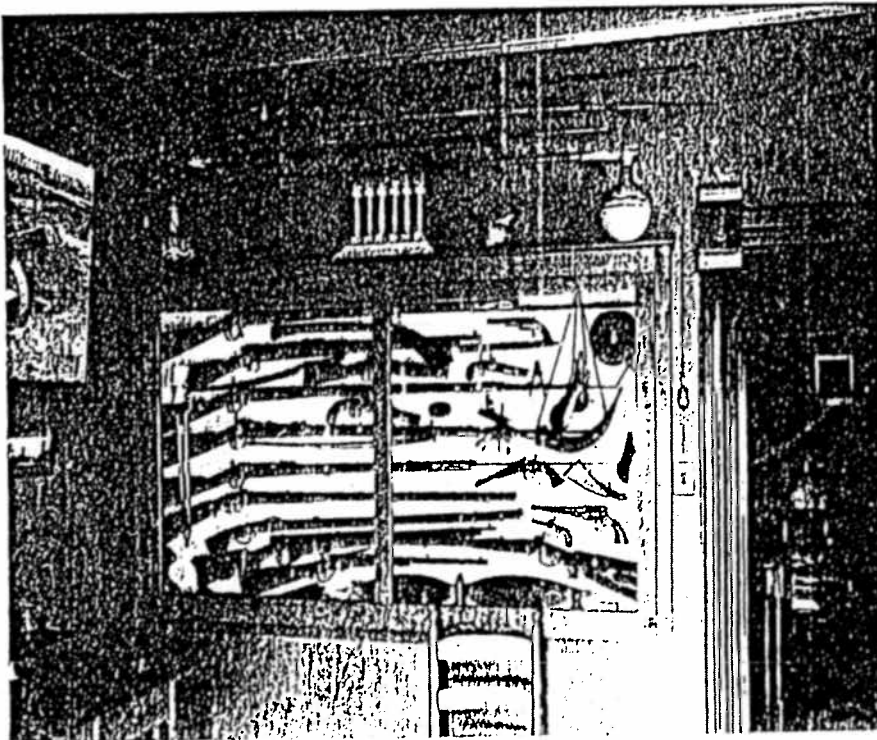
Robert S. Withers, 32° K.C.C.H.

cided. The wife of the man who captured the cutlass gave it to Mr. Withers thirty-five years ago. She was the second wife of this man and much younger than her husband, which explains the many years she outlived him.

Highly valued among the collection of swords is one that belonged to a Civil War cavalry officer. It still bears the piece of crepe that was tied around it when Lincoln was assassinated.

Guns of many types and many nations crowd Mr. Withers' cases, and overflow into the halls and rooms below: an Assyrian blunderbuss, one of those dry weather guns called flintlocks; a Japanese matchlock gun, highly decorated with inlaid silver; a Winchester rifle from Tombstone, Arizona, dated 1776; and a Lee Melford straight pull gun found on the battleship Maine by a government diver, right after the ship had sunk. Highly prized is a Puritan flintlock. When Mr. Withers took this gun apart to clean it

(Continued on page 164)



One of the gun cases in Mr. Withers' collection of weapons. Above the case may be seen four Philippine spears. Through the door just a glimpse is caught of one of the miscellaneous curio cases that stand in the hall.

New Gifts to the Library

"Twenty Years of Education for Journalism," by Sara Lockwood Williams, is one of the recent gifts to the Scottish Rite Library. It is given by the author. Mrs. Williams is the wife of Walter Williams, (33°) president of the University of Missouri.

The School of Journalism at the University of Missouri was the first such school in the world. Walter Williams was a member of the committee that did the preliminary work looking toward the establishment of the school, and has been its dean since it was opened in the fall of 1908.

Mrs. Williams, who before her marriage was Sara Lawrence Lockwood, is a graduate of the school, about which she has written, served the school as librarian and later as assistant professor of journalism. Her practical journalism experience covered a wide field of reporting on city newspapers in this country, and also Honolulu, P. I. Few persons could be so well prepared as Mrs. Williams to write a history of Missouri's School of Journalism.

The gift of this book by its author is much appreciated by the Scottish Rite.

Another gift to the library in the last month is "Kansas City, Missouri: Its History and Its People," by Carrie Westlake Whitney. This two-volume book was presented by J. E. Witt, 32°. It includes the history of this city from its beginning up to 1908. The volumes are profusely illustrated, and the passing of the years have added to their value. The commercial, educational, social and religious development of the community from the time it was but a trading post is covered very thoroughly by this historian, and her apparent delight in the human interest side of events makes her book especially entertaining.

Collecting Curious Weapons— A Peaceful Farmer's Hobby

(Continued from page 163)

he found lint under the trigger guard that was undoubtedly from a Puritan uniform.

Two Springfield muskets, modelled after the Enfield musket, were given Mr. Withers by his father, who was a Confederate man. These two guns had been given by the Government to negroes on the Withers farm. They carried them through the day and turned them over to their master at night for him to use in hunting wild turkeys.

Other guns are a Spanish model Mauser used in the Aguinaldo insurrection; a Mauser carbine from the German Erfurt Arsenal, dated 1918; a derringer of the first percussion cap type, also a Remington derringer; an Edystone of the type the American troops were first armed with. These Edystones were replaced by Springfields as rapidly as possible. This type of gun is also in the Withers collection. The rough finish of the Mauser carbine, mentioned above, and the poor quality of the wood, show the straits to which the Germans were

being put in making guns for their soldiers toward the end of the war.

I was flattering myself a bit that in this brief interview I was learning considerable about firearms. All I had known before was mostly words, not clearly defined I am sure. Just then Mr. Withers took down from a case a pistol with a rather long barrel and said, "This is a horse pistol. It was named that because it is the kind usually carried in the holster of a saddle." Simple enough, of course, but hadn't I always thought a horse pistol was one that was bigger than a colt pistol? Later, with the help of Webster, I learned that it was for Samuel Colt and not the horse's baby the Colt pistol was named.

In a velvet lined rosewood case that makes a decorative spot on a little hall table is an English dueling set of the period around 1836 to 1840. After looking at this set it was easier to understand the really artistic foundation of the old melodramatic slap with a glove. A duel, let this hand-decorated pair of guns and accessories bear witness, was no sloppy fight.

Besides the two guns fitted into their niches in the soft velvet, there is the neat ladle for melting lead, and the nicest little bullet mold. Oh, yes, the bullets were molded right on the ground so the seconds would be sure there was no inequality in ammunition. A powder flask, device for measuring the charge, mallet for tamping, ram rod, cork screw and oil can complete the set. The finest of workmanship shows forth on every piece, some even hand decorated. Praise be to those good old days of fewer and more artistic murders!

Mr. Withers tells an unusual story about one of his curios. A German soldier was killed at Burlon Wood by a piece of shrapnel passing through his helmet and into his skull. A Canadian soldier took the helmet and identification tag and sent them to his brother in Canada. The brother presented them to a friend, who in turn gave them to Mr. Withers. About six years after the war the helmet and tag were shown to a German former soldier who was a visitor in the Withers home. He recognized the name as that of a man who had lived only a few miles from his own home, and while he did not know him personally he knew his family. Strange incidents like this add to the curio collector's thrills.

Mr. Withers has found that collecting curios is in itself an excellent education, for in acquiring a new curio one is naturally led into a study of the country, the people or the events that gave the object its interest and value. In studying his collection of weapons Mr. Withers has added extensively to his knowledge of history. And through his miscellaneous collection he has learned much of the customs and cultural life of people all over the world, from ancient times to the present.

Many collectors go out themselves to search for curios, but Robert Withers has done little traveling. Most of his collection, which includes hundreds of articles, has been brought to him by friends who

have traveled far. When he hears of a friend going abroad, or to some interesting section of this country, he hands him a check and asks him to pick up some interesting things along his way. Many interesting and beautiful objects also have been added purely through the thoughtfulness and generosity of friends. With the help of his traveling acquaintances Mr. Withers has acquired, for example, a little collection of lamps from points as far removed as the catacombs in Rome, the Aztec ruins, Maya region in Mexico, the Pyramids of Egypt, from China, Tunis and Algeria. Strange as it may seem, the lamps are almost identical in style, although some are made of brass, others of clay or soapstone. Did all these people of distant lands and various ages learn to make lamps from a common ancestor, or did the idea spring full fledged in each group? That is just one more thing for the collector to delve into, adding to his knowledge of the world.

Many of Mr. Withers' curios are exceedingly decorative. Among these are a number of small ivory carvings from Japan, Chinese agate and painted glass snuff bottles, a solid brass, hand decorated spice mortar of early American times.

Interesting are two personal seals made of porphyry. One is that of an Egyptian nobleman. It is many centuries old. The other seal is from China.

An old-time Assyrian "vest pocket" ink well and pen gives us of the fountain pen age something to be thankful for. A brass container about eight or nine inches long, an inch wide and almost as deep, holds the wooden pen and powdered ink. Attached to this container is the ink well in which the powdered ink is mixed with water as needed. This portable writing equipment would be about as light and convenient to carry in a pocket as a good-sized whetstone.

Reminding us of the days before the safety razor and the autostrop, is the petrified hickory razor hone that once belonged to a Revolutionary War ancestor of Mr. Withers. Gone are the days of the hone, and few are the men of today who would ever get to work mornings if they had to hone a razor before shaving. It would be almost as pathetic a scene as women would make trying to put a "crimp" in their own hair.

Back to the subject of weapons, I asked Mr. Withers if any of the guns were loaded. "Surely," he said, "I always keep one or two loaded. A farmer has to be his own policeman." I would like to add, for the benefit of that possible prowler, that even if he escapes the gunfire, he had better not leave by the front door, for hanging on the wall nearby is a Fiji Islander's war club of teakwood, and oh what knots!

February Reunion for Advancement

The Last 3 Saturday
Afternoons in February

89

STEVE HANNAGAN
PUBLICITY

247 PARK AVENUE • NEW YORK, 17

Telephone, PLaza 5-2900

JULY 10, 1950

MR. TOM HALL
WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS Co.
NEW HAVEN 4, CONN.

DEAR TOM:

ENCLOSED IS A COPY OF A LETTER FROM
MR. ROBERT S. WITHERS WHO OWNS A "ONE OF ONE
THOUSAND," WHO HAS SUPPLIED ADDITIONAL DATA
THAT YOU WANTED.

CORDIALLY YOURS,


W. H. DEPPERMAN

ENC/I

STEVE HANNAGAN
247 PARK AVENUE • NEW YORK, 17

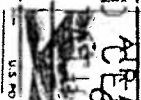
*Correspondence
Concerning the "One of One
Thousand" Rifle contest.*

MR. ROBERT S. WITHERS
WITHERS FARM
LIBERTY, MISSOURI

AIR



GRAND AIR
S



The following is from the

STEVE HANNAGAN
PUBLICITY

247 PARK AVENUE · NEW YORK, 17

Telephone, PLaza 5-2900

JULY 11, 1950

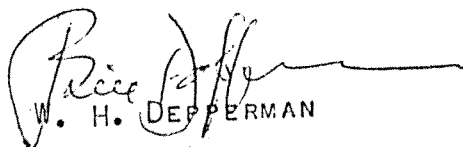
MR. ROBERT S. WITHERS
WITHERS FARM
LIBERTY, Mo.

DEAR MR. WITHERS:

I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR
YOUR COURTESY IN PASSING ALONG TO ME A COPY OF
THE JUNE 26TH ISSUE OF THE LIBERTY ADVANCE
CONTAINING THE ARTICLE ABOUT YOUR "ONE OF ONE
THOUSAND" RIFLE.

WE HAVE NOTED ON THE COPIES
OF THE PHOTOGRAPH THAT MR. RUSSELL D. ROY OF
LIBERTY, MISSOURI SHOULD BE CREDITED.

CORDIALLY YOURS,


W. H. DEPPERMAN

Rifle In The

Rare Variety of the Winchester 73 Owned By Robert S. Withers—86-Yr. History.

Robert S. Withers of southwest of Liberty, is the owner of one of the most sought after rifles in the United States.

His rifle is one of the rare, historic "One of One Thousand" variety of the Winchester 73, it was announced by James C. Hartley, director of Research of the Winchester Repeating Arms company.

Mr. Withers' "One of One Thousand" has an interesting history. He acquired the rifle from a neighbor from whom he received it as a bequest. The neighbor had received the gun in trade for another gun in Tombstone, Arizona.

Mr. Withers recognized the rifle as a rarity and sent it to Winchester for reconditioning and learned from the company that it had originally been shipped from New Haven to Tombstone, Ariz., in 1876 for \$125. There is no officially recognized present price on this "One of One Thousand" rifle but it will undoubtedly be high when a price is set.

Mr. Withers is of the opinion the gun has changed hands only a few times in its 86-year history. Mr. Withers recalls of having spoken to only one other man who ever saw a "One of One Thousand," rifle. This man was a sheep shearer whose father in Durango, Colorado, once owned such a rifle.

His rifle is one of the first thus far reported of the approximately 130 of this rare version of the Model 1873. When the search started Winchester records revealed only 124 had been manufactured. Since this search started several additional authentic "One of One Thousand" rifles, beyond the 124 previously recorded, have been discovered.

Other Rare Guns

Other Rare Guns

Mr. Withers has perhaps one of the finest collections of rare guns in Clay county, accumulated over a lifetime. The list includes U.S. official personnel rifles used from the civil war to World War I, and others dating from Revolutionary war times.

One of the highly prized pieces is a Lee-Metford .25 straight pull rifle salvaged by a diver in Havana Harbor off the USS Main, Spanish-American war. It was acquired by Lt. Comm. Allen Dougherty, formerly of Liberty, who died 30 years ago while acting as a naval attache in Pekin, China.

He has an extremely large bore flintrock used in the Battle of King's Mountain in the Carolinas during the Revolutionary war. Mr. Withers acquired it a few years ago from a descendant of the original owner in the Missouri Ozarks.

A Colt repeating rifle, 1885, in the collection was modeled from the Winchester, and was owned by the sheriff of Gunnison, Colo., and figured in western outlaw raids. Another is a short shotgun used by Doc Holliday in the Corral fight (1875) at Tombstone, Ariz., made famous by Wyatt Earp, U.S. marshal.

Another prized possession is a pin-fire shotgun taken from the James Boys' home east of Kearney by Sheriff James Timberlake. It was won in a raffle by George S. Withers, a uncle of the present owner. He also has a match-lock rifle which was used before the Revolutionary war period and several German make guns of unusual design.

(Continued On Page Two)

Most Sought Rifle in the U. S.

In Robt. S. Withers' Collection

(Continued From Page One)

This small number of the super accurate rifles of their time were the best of the 720,610 Model 73's made from 1873 through 1924 when that model was discontinued. Known as the "gun that won the West," and now the "star" of the Universal-International picture "Winchester 73," the rifle established the reputation of Winchester and became known throughout the world.

Being among the first twenty persons in the United States to report satisfactorily his ownership of one of the rare "One of One Thousand" rifles, Mr. Withers qualified to win a new Model 94 lever action repeating rifle, modern descendent of the Model 73. The rifle was awarded to him by Universal Pictures Co., Inc., 445 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. The search for "One of One Thousand" rifles was originated in an article in the American Rifleman.

The Model 1873 was introduced in 1873 and in 44-40 caliber became one of the most celebrated and widely used rifles of its time. Its success in 44-40 caliber induced Colt to chamber his famous six-shooter to that caliber so that the same ammunition could be used in both rifle and revolver.

The ammunition was frequently used as money in the early frontier days, and as recently as 1920 served this purpose in the Upper Amazon in South America where some Model 73 are still being used. Several 44-40 cartridges are included in the world-famous Chase National Bank collection of monies of the world, which includes more than 80,000 different items.

Another famous Model 73 once used by Col. Frederick William ("Buffalo Bill") Cody is also in the news this year, when it will be presented to the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody, Wyoming on July 4th. Owned by Col. Walter F. Siegmund, Winchester, official and a collector of historic firearms, the Buffalo Bill rifle will be presented to Mary Jester Allen, niece of Col. Cody.

Robert S. Withers
Withers Farm
R.F.D. #2
Liberty, Missouri

Mr. W. H. Depperman
c/o Steve Hannagen
247 Park Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Depperman:

This is in reply to your letter of June 14, 1950, concerning my "One of One Thousand" Winchester rifle.

As to style this gun is a rifle.

The barrel is 30 inches in length, and of octagon cross-section.

The stock is a pistol grip type, perhaps better called a semi-pistol-grip, in which the grip follows the lever under the gun that actuates it. It is of the crotch of a walnut stock, and very beautifully marked as to grain. I believe it is Circassian walnut. It has a shop gun butt rather than the conventional rifle butt of that period.

The trigger is a plain trigger with an adjusting screw as to pull, so that it can be adjusted for an extremely light pull.

The front sight appears to be of light bronze. Turned with the circle up it shows a black post with a round point in the midst of the bronze circle, Turned with the circle down it presents a short bronze post with a faint tip of silver color.

The decoration shown in the photograph at the base of the barrel is repeated in a little less design at the front end. At each end of the barrel there appears a silver disk around the cross section.

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When they were through with the gun I will go over and get it and since they would have no further use for the case I would like to have this case and I will want a few tickets to the show.

There will be no further charges.

If there is any other question about it please let me know.

Very truly yours,

June 24, 1950

Robert S. Withers

RSW:mlg

Robert S. Withers
Withers Farm
R.F.D. # 2
Liberty, Missouri

Mr. W. H. Depperman
c/o Steve Hannagan
247 Park Avenue
New York 17, New York

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The stock is a pistol grip type, perhaps better called a semi-pistol-grip, in which the grip follows the lever under the gun that actuates it. It is of the crotch of a walnut stock, and very beautifully marked as to grain. I believe it is Circassian walnut. It has a shot gun butt rather than the conventional rifle butt of that period.

The trigger is a plain trigger with an adjusting screw as to pull, so that it can be adjusted for an extremely light pull.

The front sight appears to be of light bronze. Turned with the circle up it shows a black post with a round point in the midst of the bronze circle. Turned with the circle down it presents a short bronze post with a faint tip of silver color.

The decoration shown in the photograph at the base of the barrel is repeated in a little less design at the front end. At each end of the barrel there appears a silver disk around the cross section.

The ^{rear} front sight is an open hunting sight with a straight V, which turns up for elevation presenting another V and graduation running to apparently a thousand yards moving in the figures from 1 to 10. A close inspection of this sight, for discovering unusual features, has disclosed the figures 1876, at the top of the elevating bar.

Further close examinations have indicated a faint inscription of model 1876 on the metal at the top of the stock to rear of the hammer. These are too faint for my eyes, but were pointed out by a member of the family. This causes me to think that the gun may not be exactly what you are looking for.

Of course, I'll be disappointed if it doesn't match the specifications, but that won't change the gun any.

Anyway, it is a beautiful "curio" and I have long enjoyed having it.

I have procured the negatives from the photographer and ^{send them separately} ~~enclose~~ them herewith. I didn't ask him about returning them, but they are of his ^{regular} professional file. He would probably be tickled to death if he

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STEVE HANNAGAN

247 PARK AVENUE • NEW YORK, 17

Telephone Plaza 5-2900

JUNE 14, 1950

MR. ROBERT S. WITHERS
WITHERS FARM, R.F.D. #2
LIBERTY, MISSOURI

DEAR MR. WITHERS:

AS WE ARE PUBLICITY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS COMPANY DIVISION OF OLIN INDUSTRIES, INC., YOUR NOTARIZED LETTER OF JUNE 10TH REGARDING YOUR OWNERSHIP OF A "ONE OF ONE THOUSAND" VARIETY OF THE MODEL 1873 HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO US BY UNIVERSAL PICTURES COMPANY, INC., WHICH HAS ASKED US TO FOLLOW THROUGH.

YOUR LETTER IS GOING FORWARD FOR FINAL OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION TO MR. EDWARD HARTSHORNE OF THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OF WINCHESTER, AND YOU WILL HEAR FROM HIS OFFICE SHORTLY. AFTER CONFIRMATION HAS BEEN MADE BY WINCHESTER, UNIVERSAL WILL SHIP A NEW MODEL 94 TO YOU, ADDRESSED TO WITHERS FARM, R.F.D. #2, LIBERTY, MO.

TO COMPLETE WINCHESTER'S RECORDS ON YOUR GUN, WOULD YOU PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR "ONE OF ONE THOUSAND," SERIAL NUMBER 892 Jan 26, 1874

I do not think that this is the serial number.
J. Hall July 1, 1961

STYLE (MUSKET, RIFLE, CARBINE)
LENGTH OF BARREL
TYPE OF BARREL
TYPE OF STOCK
TRIGGER (SET OR PLAIN)
ANY UNUSUAL FEATURES

AS WE MAY SOMETIME LATER ON FIND USE FOR A REPRODUCTION OF THE WORDS "ONE OF ONE THOUSAND" AS THEY APPEAR ON YOUR RIFLE, WOULD IT BE ASKING TOO MUCH TO BORROW THE NEGATIVE FROM WHICH YOU MADE YOUR PHOTOGRAPH? IN LENDING THE NEGATIVE, WOULD YOU PLEASE AUTHORIZE US TO USE IT FOR PUBLICATION?

CORDIALLY YOURS,

W. H. Depperman
W. H. DEPPERMAN

CC: MESSRS. E. HARTSHORNE (MECS.)
D. G. CROOK
P. GENARD

#4

ROBERT S. WITHERS
WITHERS FARM
R.F.D. #2
LIBERTY, MISSOURI

MR. W. H. DEPPERMAN
c/o STEVE HANNAGAN
247 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK

DEAR MR. DEPPERMAN:

THIS IS IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 14, 1950,
CONCERNING MY "ONE OF ONE THOUSAND" WINCHESTER RIFLE.

AS TO STYLE THIS GUN IS A RIFLE.

THE BARREL IS 30 INCHES IN LENGTH, AND OF OCTAGON
CROSS-SECTION.

THE STOCK IS A PISTOL GRIP TYPE, PERHAPS BETTER CALLED
A SEMI-PISTOL-GRIP, IN WHICH THE GRIP FOLLOWS THE LEVER UNDER
THE GUN THAT ACTUATES IT. IT IS OF THE GROTH OF A WALNUT
STOCK, AND VERY BEAUTIFULLY MARKED AS TO GRAIN. I BELIEVE IT
IS CIRCASSIAN WALNUT. IT HAS A SHOT GUN BUTT RATHER THAN THE
CONVENTIONAL RIFLE BUTT OF THAT PERIOD.

THE TRIGGER IS A PLAIN TRIGGER WITH AN ADJUSTING SCREW
AS TO PULL, SO THAT IT CAN BE ADJUSTED FOR AN EXTREMELY LIGHT
PULL.

THE FRONT SIGHT APPEARS TO BE OF LIGHT BRONZE. TURNED
WITH THE CIRCLUE UP IT SHOWS A BLACK POST WITH A ROUND POINT
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BRONZE CIRCLE. TURNED WITH THE CIRCLE
DOWN IT PRESENTS A SHORT BRONZE POST WITH A FAINT TIP OF SILVER
COLOR.

THE DECORATION SHOWN IN THE PHOTOGRAPH AT THE BASE OF
THE BARREL IS REPEATED IN A LITTLE LESS DESIGN AT THE FRONT END.
AT EACH END OF THE BARREL THERE APPEARS A SILVER DISK AROUND THE
CROSS SECTION.

THE REAR SIGHT IS AN OPEN HUNTING SIGHT WITH A STRAIGHT
V, WHICH TURNS UP FOR ELEVATION PRESENTING ANOTHER V AND A GRADUATION
RUNNING TO APPARENTLY A THOUSAND YARDS MOVING IN THE FIGURES FROM
1 TO 10. A CLOSE INSPECTION OF THIS SIGHT, FOR DISCOVERING UNUSUAL
FEATURES, HAS DISCLOSED THE FIGURES 1876, AT THE TOP OF THE ELEVATING
BAR.

FURTHER CLOSE EXAMINATIONS HAVE INDICATED A FAINT INSCRIPTION OF MODEL 1876 ON THE METAL AT THE TOP OF THE STOCK TO REAR OF THE HAMMER. THESE ARE TOO FAINT FOR MY EYES, BUT WERE POINTED OUT BY A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY. THIS CAUSES ME TO THINK THAT THE GUN MAY NOT BE EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.

OF COURSE, I'LL BE DISAPPOINTED IF IT DOESN'T MATCH THE SPECIFICATIONS, BUT THAT WON'T CHANGE THE GUN ANY.

ANYWAY, IT IS A BEAUTIFUL "CURIO" AND I HAVE LONG ENJOYED HAVING IT.

I HAVE PROCURED THE NEGATIVES FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHER AND SEND THEM SEPARATELY. I DIDN'T ASK HIM ABOUT RETURNING THEM, BT THEY ARE OF HIS REGULAR FILE. HE WOULD PROBABLY BE TICKLED TO DEATH IF HE EVER GOT A PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT, ALTHOUGH HE DIDN'T MENTION IT. THE PHOTOGRAPHER IS RUSSEL D. RAY, LIBERTY, MO. YOU HAVE MY AUTHORIZATION TO USE THE NEGATIVES FOR PUBLICATION.

SINCE YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE PUBLICITY EN END OF THIS PROJECT, I HAVE BEEN THINKING OF A WAY TO COOPERATE AND HAVE THOUGHT THAT WHEN THIS PICTURE IS FIRST SHOWN IN KANSAS CITY THAT I MIGHT LOAN THIS GUN TO THE HOUSE IN WHICH IT WAS SHOWN FOR THE DURATION OF THE FIRST RUN.

I, OF COURSE, WOULD WANT IT WELL INSURED AND PROTECTED IN EVERY WAY.

MY IDEA IS TO HAVE A PLATE GLASS CASE MADE FOR IT AND HAVE THE GUN ERECTED ON A PEDESTAL IN THE LOBBY WITH APPROPRIATE LABELS AND A SHORT NOTICE OF THE GUN SHOWN ON THE SCREEN. I WILL WANT THE CASE PLACED LOW ENOUGH FOR CHILDREN TO SEE IT EASILY.

WHEN THEY WERE THROUGH WITH THE GUN I WILL GO OVER AND GET IT AND SINCE THEY WOULD HAVE NO FURTHER USE FOR THE CASE I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THIS CASE AND I WILL WANT A FEW TICKETS TO THE SHOW.

THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER CHARGES.

IF THERE IS ANY OTHER QUESTION ABOUT IT PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

JUNE 24, 1950

ROBERT S. WITHERS

Ans. June 25th 50.

WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS COMPANY

DIVISION OF OLIN INDUSTRIES, INC.

NEW HAVEN, 4, CONNECTICUT, U. S. A.

WINCHESTER
TRADE MARK

June 15, 1950

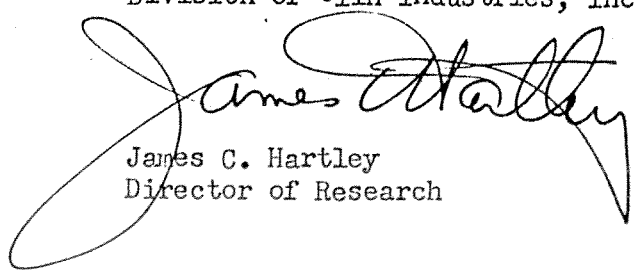
Mr. Robert S. Withers
Withers Farm, R.F.D. #2
Liberty, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Withers:

We are happy to advise you that your Model 73 rifle,
serial No. 89 has been checked against the company records,
which authenticates it as a "One of One Thousand".

Congratulations on the ownership of this rare rifle!
You will be interested to know that your gun was shipped from
Winchester on January 26, 1874.

Sincerely yours,
WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS COMPANY
Division of Olin Industries, Inc.


James C. Hartley
Director of Research

H/c

From: STEVE HANNAGAN
(By Bill Depperman)
247 Park Avenue
New York 17, New York

For: Olin Industries, Inc.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Robert S. Withers of R.F.D. No. 2, Liberty, Missouri, it was revealed today, is the owner of one of the most sought after rifles in the United States.

His rifle is one of the rare, historic "One of One Thousand" variety of the Winchester 73, it was announced by James C. Hartley, director of Research of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company division of Olin Industries, Inc.

Mr. Withers' "One of One Thousand" has an interesting history. He acquired the rifle from a neighbor from whom he received it as a bequest. The neighbor had received the gun in trade for another gun in Tombstone, Arizona.

Mr. Withers recognized the rifle as a rarity and sent it to Winchester for reconditioning and learned from the company that it had originally been shipped from New Haven to Tombstone, Ariz., in 1876 for \$125. There is no officially recognized present price on this "One of One Thousand" rifle but it will undoubtedly be high when a price is set.

Mr. Withers is of the opinion the gun has changed hands only a few times in its 86-year history. Mr. Withers recalls of

having spoken to only one other man who ever saw a "One of One Thousand," rifle. This man was a sheep shearer whose father in Durango, Colorado once owned such a rifle.

His rifle is one of the first thus far reported of the approximately 130 of this rare version of the Model 1873. When the search started Winchester records revealed only 124 had been manufactured. Since this search started several additional authentic "One of One Thousand" rifles, beyond the 124 previously recorded, have been discovered.

This small number of the super accurate rifles of their time were the best of the 720,610 Model 73's made from 1873 through 1924 when that model was discontinued.

Known as the "gun that won the West," and now the "star" of the Universal-International picture "Winchester 73," the rifle established the reputation of Winchester and became known throughout the world.

Being among the first twenty persons in the United States to report satisfactorily his ownership of one of the rare "One of One Thousand" rifles, Mr. Withers qualified to win a new Model 94 lever action repeating rifle, modern descendent of the Model 73. The rifle was awarded to him by Universal Pictures Co., Inc., 445 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. The search for "One of One Thousand" rifles was originated in an article in the American Rifleman.

The Model 1873 was introduced in 1873 and in 44-40 caliber became one of the most celebrated and widely used rifles of its time. Its success in 44-40 caliber induced Colt to chamber his famous six-shooter to that caliber so that the same ammunition could be used in both rifle and revolver.

The ammunition was frequently used as money in the early frontier days, and as recently as 1920 served this purpose in the Upper Amazon in South America where some Model 73 are still being used. Several 44-40 cartridges are included in the world-famous Chase National Bank collection of monies of the world, which includes more than 80,000 different items.

Another famous Model 73 once used by Col. Frederick William ("Buffalo Bill") Cody is also in the news this year, when it will be presented to the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody, Wyoming on July 4th. Owned by Col. Walter F. Siegmund, Winchester official and a collector of historic firearms, the Buffalo Bill rifle will be presented to Mary Jester Allen, niece of Col. Cody.

4-35268

Cody Firearms Museum Records Office

THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A FACTORY LETTER

****Do not accept this as a verification of firearm configuration****

Phone: 307-578-4031

Fax: 307-578-4079

Email: cfmrecords@bbhc.org

<http://www.bbhc.org/firearms/records.cfm>

*If the content of this search does not match the current configuration of your firearm, please contact the Records Office.
Acknowledging that many firearms have been modified over the years, we will be happy to double-check the entry.*

Name: [REDACTED]

Member Number: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Payment method: CREDIT CARD (USE SLIP) – CASH – CHECK – ACCOUNT

Letter – Call – Fax – Email

Request _____ of _____

WinchesterModel: 76SN: 3551**Marlin**

Model: _____

SN: _____

Model (Marlin): _____

Date In: 5/20/78Type: Rifle – Carbine – Musket – Shotgun

Caliber/Gauge: _____

Barrel Shape: Oct – ½ Oct – Round _____Barrel length: 30" Weight: _____Trigger: SETStock: Pistol Grip

Sights: _____

Magazine: 1/2 – 2/3 – Full _____

Butt: _____

Engraving: _____

Features (circle if on record):

Takedown Casehardened

Blued Sling & Swivels

Oil Finish

Date Shipped: 6/19/78Order #: 11781

R&R: _____

Other Remarks: 1 OF 1000 "CH 6/14/78"

Date: _____ By: _____